

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.

1887.

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Democratic State Ticket.

For Judge of Supreme Court,
J. ROSS THOMPSON, of Erie.
State Treasurer,
BERNARD J. McGRANN, of Lancaster.

Democratic County Ticket.

For Associate Judge,
JOHN GROVE.
Treasurer,
JAMES KIMPORT.
Sheriff,
JOHN NOLL.
Register,
JOHN A. RUPP.
Recorder,
W. G. MORRISON.
Commissioners,
A. J. GRIEST,
M. S. FEIDLER.
Auditors,
H. A. MCKEE,
T. F. JAMISON.

EVERY Democrat should be registered to-day.

FELLOW CITIZENS: In the matter of tariff reform the Allentown platform says—chestnuts.

If the Gazette can stand such beastly illustrations as those of last week, we are sure that Mr. Griest can.

THE Democracy of this State has the permission of Alec McClure and Mr. Randall, "to march to its usual defeat."

To-day (Thursday) is the last day on which you can register.

THE Democratic candidate for Sheriff fought through the late war and came out with credit. Where was the Republican candidate at that time?

REGISTER to-day, it is the last day.

"MR. GRIEST has made his record as an officer, and the business man and farmer cannot afford to have him beaten," at least that is what a Republican told us this week.

YOUNG man if you voted last year on age register to-day.

THE Tariff plank of the Allentown platform is a doubled barreled arrangement capable of any construction that may be put upon it. It means every thing, anything, and nothing, it is a political straddle, a wordy abortion and a colossal loss of deception. It was begotten by Alec McClure conceived of Sam Randall, its paternity was sworn on the democratic party of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania democracy is indicted for political fornication and bastardy and will be convicted. The father of the child pleasantly tells us, you can march to your usual defeat.

The Platform.

It is simple folly for the Democratic press of the state to attempt to delude Democratic voters in regard to the deliverance of the Allentown platform on revenue reform, and it is blindness for tariff reform Democrats to say that they got anything at Allentown other than what Mr. Randall and Alec McClure granted them. Stripped off its verbiage the tariff plank means, not an endorsement of the principles enunciated at Chicago, not an endorsement of President Cleveland, but an endorsement of Mr. Randall and his peculiar views on economic questions, views entirely at variance with the interpretation of the Chicago platform as understood by five sixths of the Democrats of the country, as declared by the President in all his public utterances and as laid down by Secretary Manning in his report. Between the democracy of Pennsylvania and their enemies the Republicans, there is now no issue on the question of tariff reform. Mr. Randall's interpretation of the last Democratic national platform is entirely in harmony with the Republican idea as his vote with the Republicans in the last congress indicated. On the vital questions on which the President took square issue with the Republican party and on which he will be fought in 1888. The platform is silent on Cleveland's veto of the Dependent pension bill. Why? Because Mr. Randall voted with the Republicans to pass the bill over the President's veto. It was a Randall convention and could not condemn Mr. Randall's course by sustaining the President.

It is silent on Civil Service Reform to which the party is pledged, and on which Mr. Cleveland has taken a square stand. Why? Because Mr. Randall had his Custom House officers, and employees of the mint there to stifle Democratic sentiment and vote as their boss dictated. Civil Service and Mr. Randall could not both be endorsed. The second plank says "We fully endorse the administration of President Cleveland." There are only four points on which President Cleveland has been attacked by the Republicans viz. on his revenue reform views, his position on the silver bill, his veto of the dependent pension bill, and on his firm adherence to Civil Service Reform. On these questions the platform is silent. Why? Because on everyone of these questions Mr. Randall is in antagonism with the President. There is no use in trying to gloss over the tariff plank or the failure of the Convention to endorse the administration. It was a square toed snub and that is evident to all. With Mr. Randall controlling the Convention it was impossible to sustain the President. Right and wrong cannot both be endorsed. The only place that the Convention was free to act was in the selection of a ticket and its deliverance on State issues, there it was that democracy shone out and Randallism crawled into the shade. The ticket is strong and the platform on State issues honest, but Mr. Randall's personal interests did not conflict at that point with those of the Democratic party. Is it not time for the democracy of this state to shake the leader whose policy has been for the last six years rolling up thousands upon thousands of majority for the Republican party? The party wants no man for a leader who has been allied with the Republicans for the past five years and whose vote in Congress on every issue on which party lines were drawn has been with the Republicans.

Have you registered? If not do so at once, this is the last day.

Thompson and McGrann.

If the Democratic party of Pennsylvania were to make its fight this fall on the declarations of its platform it could as the Philadelphia Times says make up its mind to "march to its usual defeat," but hapily the men who were engaged in getting an endorsement for themselves were too busy to interfere in the selection of candidates and the result is, a strong ticket has been nominated. J. Ross Thompson of Erie the candidate for Supreme Judge is admittedly one of the ablest lawyers of the state, a man of high personal character, liberal education and thorough judicial training. Untrammelled by corporation influences, his nomination made in the broad sunlight of a convention unbossed as to candidates, he goes before the people of the state the representative of no man, ring or clique. He is worthy the suffrage of every man who desires to place the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania beyond the control and influence of the great corporations of the state and who desires to make the courts of last resort the bulwark behind which the individual can stand and bid defiance to corporate monopoly. J. Ross Thompson is the man to vote for. For Treasurer Hon. B. J. McGrann of Lancaster has been nominated. Mr. McGrann is a well known financier, farmer and railroad contractor and has long been prominent in the councils of his party. He is fitted by a long experience in business both financial and otherwise for the duties of the position to which he has been nominated. His nomination like that of Mr. Thompson was unsolicited and not the work of bosses. He is a man of undoubted integrity independence of character and honesty of purpose and ranks among the most substantial of Lancaster's business men. The ticket could not have been improved on and will receive the heartiest support from the Democrats of the state. On the state ticket and on state issues no Democrat need hesitate, and on those two things alone can any fight be made.

The B. & O. Deal.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad as a great competing trunk line from New York to the west has passed into the fostering care of a gigantic syndicate of English and American capitalists who purpose harmonizing all railroad interests in the interests of the stock holders. There are now but two rival lines of road between New York and Chicago, and between them exists an understanding that no freight or passenger war shall take place. The B. & O. is to stop at Philadelphia and practically becomes a tributary or feeder of the Pennsylvania. The Reading has no western outlet no prospect of one and is under the control of the same syndicate that is to put the B. & O. on its feet. The S. Penn. is to all intents and purposes South, and the Vanderbilts and the Pennsylvania are the masters of the situation. It may be a case of the survival of the fittest, but it is one fraught with great danger to the people of the whole country. Pennsylvania sold her birth-right for less than a mess of pottage when she parted with her canal system. Over railways as common carriers she has comparatively little control. Theoretically and under the common law she has, but a paper control is a rope of sand. The hope of competing lines must for years be abandoned. Like the inscription over Dante's Inferno Pennsylvania can write over her eastern and western portals "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." In the vast aggregations of corporate wealth lies untold danger to the people. Millionaires die and

their wealth is divided up among their heirs or entirely dissipated. Corporations never die, and their wealth, power and arrogance go on increasing. The constitutional provision of Pennsylvania against the merger, purchase or control of parallel or competing lines of railroad is and has been a dead letter. Syndicates can be found at anytime to purchase or control such lines and the state is powerless to interfere. It is well enough that railroad values should be settled, but not by a process of absorption such as has been going on in Pennsylvania for years.

It remains to be seen what the result of the new deal may be. Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas are both controlled by the Standard Oil Company. Her anthracite coal by the Reading and Lehigh, and Delaware Lachawana and Western Railroad Companies. The Western Union exacts tribute from us as the only Telegraph Co. and the Belle Telephone Company plays highwayman in another line. The Pennsylvania railroad can say to-day to our people "you can not go out of your State by rail without paying tribute to us." If corporations never abused their privileges there could be little or no complaint but all monopolies become oppressive whether individual or corporate. Wise men will look with alarm on the concentration of railroad control in the hands of Syndicates be they foreign or domestic. Every kind of business is passing into the hands of corporations and it is little wonder that labor gets restless.

GREAT effort will be made by the Republicans in this county, to elect their candidates for Associate Judge, Sheriff, and Register. On these three offices their fight will be centered. The Gazette will howl about the third term, but simply as a variation to the old tune "Court House ring." Every energy will be bended to creating dissension in the Democratic ranks in order to make votes for their candidates. It behooves Democrats to close up the ranks, sink all differences, discard petty jealousies, and work earnestly for the ticket. Against our candidates nothing can be said, yet we may expect attacks of all kinds. Let our campaign be honest, earnest, and free from the Billings gate which has lately characterized that of our enemies. The party has ever won its victories by fair fighting, and it will bury the Republican ticket this fall under 1000 majority. That is the figure to work for and if every Democrat does his duty that will be the result.

THE Iowa Democrats are fearless and honest in expressing their views on tariff reform. A little of that spirit in Pennsylvania would not be out of place, the following is their declaration on that question:

We call upon Congress for the immediate revision of our tariff laws to a revenue basis to the end that every industry and every section may enjoy perfect equality under the law, and we favor the retention of the internal revenue tax on intoxicating liquors and tobacco and protest against its proposed reduction for the purpose of continuing the present high tariff on the necessities of life.

A Menace to Reading.

"Unless it is declared unconstitutional it will paralyze all new railroad enterprise in the State and render impossible the reorganization of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad," said Congressman Charles R. Buckalew yesterday, referring to a law passed at the last session of the Legislature entitled, "an act to enforce against railroad corporations the provisions of section seven of article sixteen of the Constitution." "I consider that this law was

smuggled through both houses and its effect upon the state will be to practically prevent the building of any more railroads and drive all active capital out of the State."

The act provides that no issue of capital stock for money shall be made by a railroad company until the full par value of the stock shall have been paid in cash. It forbids the issue of bonds until the full amount of capital stock shall have been paid in, and provides the issue of bonds shall not exceed the amount of stock actually paid for. On being asked further about the bill Mr. Buckalew said:

"The act professes by its title to be intended to enforce the seventh section of article sixteen of the Constitution which relates generally to corporation, and, of course, includes railroads and canal companies, for whom some special provisions are contained in the seventeenth article. There are, however, grave doubts as to the validity of the statute. The act is confined to railroad companies, whereas the provision of the Corporation applies to all private corporations, and by the seventh section of the third article all special or local legislation in regard to private corporations is expressly forbidden.

THINKS IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

"The confining of the statute to railroads appears, therefore, to be plainly in contempt of the Constitution. Even canal companies, which are classed with railroads in the seventeenth article, are not within the provisions of the act. This objection is fundamental, and if well taken applies to the whole enactment, for, although parts of a statute, separable in character, may be obnoxious to constitutional principles, while other parts may stand, any special legislation forbidden by the third article must fall. When, therefore, the Constitution forbids the creation or issue of fictitious stock or bonds by any private corporation, the Legislature, under pretence of enforcing the provision by appropriate legislation, must make their enactment apply to all private corporations. They cannot select one private corporation, or one class of such corporations, without contravening the command of the third article, which is directed against special legislation.

"Passing from the general objection to a consideration of the particular provisions of this act, it appears to me that those provisions are intended to apply to railroad companies incorporated before its passage and to outstanding contracts which shall have been lawfully made by them. I do not question the principle that the Legislature may regulate private corporations already in existence in many very important particulars, but those regulations must not affect rights of property or of contracts already existing and duly created under the law, unless compensation for invading them shall be provided. Without intending the prolonged or elaborate discussion of the provisions of the act, it may be said that property and contract rights already in existence would be largely affected by the law, and so far the arguments will be against its validity.

"I have heard the imputation made that this was not intended in its origin so much for the enforcement of the Constitution—which would be a legitimate and laudable object—as for a sinister purpose, to promote the interests of some existing railroad companies and to discourage new, rival or hostile enterprises. Whether this be true or not is unknown to me, but it is not to be supposed that the Legislature understood that any such purpose would be promoted by the act.

"As the case now stands there will be an urgent call upon a future Legislature for a fair judicious act

which, avoiding the objections to the present one, shall provide for the enforcement of the Constitution. Such an act is greatly needed to repress corporate abuses and to protect the public. In the meantime we may expect litigation to arise upon the present law, and its possible condemnation by the courts."

Mr. Buckalew further said that he thought Senator Watres, of Lackawanna, introduced the bill and that Governor Beaver approved it on May 7, 1887.

This day you must be registered.

An Awful Calamity.

LONDON, September 5.—The theatre at Exeter took fire this evening during the performance of "Romany Rye." The occupants of the pit, after an awful struggle, escaped, but many of them were greatly injured. There was only one exit from the gallery, and the rush there was terrific. Scores were trodden under foot and suffocated. The fire escape was brought to the window and many inside were rescued. Sixty corpses have been removed. The injured survivors were sent to the hospitals. The mortality is estimated at 100.

LATER.—The structure burned was the Theatre Royal. There was a full house to-night and everything was all right until the end of the third act, at half past 10 when the drop scene fell, and in a moment the whole stage was a mass of fire. A wild panic ensued. The scene inside the theatre when the fire broke out was an awful one. Some men implored the audience to be cool but it was impossible to check the frantic rush. The actors and actresses were taken from the windows with the aid of ladders. They lost everything except what they wore at the time. Up to the present 130 bodies have been recovered. They are almost unrecognizable. Thirty injured survivors have been taken to the hospitals. The fire burned throughout the night. Search for the bodies proceeds slowly. There were several thrilling rescues. The majority of the victims were men and boys. About 30 women were burned.

MR. RUPP is to be the shining mark for the Republican arrows of detraction.

THE Democrats of Pennsylvania are to be congratulated on the work of the convention. They have a ticket of which they may be proud planted upon a platform that will command the respect of every friend of American institutions and ideas. It is not probable that the ticket will be elected, for the inexorable logic of numbers is against it. But on such a platform and with such a ticket the party can march to its usual defeat with the consciousness that the defeat was not precipitated by any fault or defect in either platform or ticket. —Philadelphia Times.

THERE is certainly a great deal of consolation in the above for the democracy of Pennsylvania. Next to Samuel J. Randall the Philadelphia Times is the greatest ally of the republican party, and when it tells democrats that their party "can march to its usual defeat" it does so with the proud consciousness that its editor has contributed more than the widow's mite to that "usual defeat." Instead of following the lead of men who have no fixed political convictions it would be well for the democracy to act for itself. Mr. McClure is no democrat, would indignantly spurn the name if applied to him, and yet a democratic convention allows him to mould the party policy.

Bre'r Feidler the late Grand Jury was Republican by one. Paste that in your silk hat.

Register at once.