

The Centre Democrat.

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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

1888.

Democratic County Committee.

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do	William Hipple	William Hipple
do	George Ross	George Ross
do	David Brickley	David Brickley
do	D. W. Miller	D. W. Miller
do	Sam. Harper Jr.	Sam. Harper Jr.
do	William Lane	William Lane
do	William Hanna	William Hanna
do	John C. Orndorf	John C. Orndorf
do	Calvin Weaver	Calvin Weaver
do	J. H. Griffin	J. H. Griffin
do	C. C. Meyer	C. C. Meyer
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do	William U. Irwin	William U. Irwin
do	Dani. W. Herrine	Dani. W. Herrine
do	John S. Hoy	John S. Hoy
do	James J. Conley	James J. Conley
do	John W. Conley	John W. Conley
do	W. W. Spangler	W. W. Spangler
do	Orrin Yeager	Orrin Yeager
do	John Kennedy	John Kennedy
do	J. S. Ewing	J. S. Ewing
do	Frank Fairbairn	Frank Fairbairn
do	Perry G. Atzel	Perry G. Atzel
do	Wm. T. Hoover	Wm. T. Hoover
do	Aaron Fahn	Aaron Fahn
do	George Brommer	George Brommer
do	Levi Ross	Levi Ross
do	Aaron Williams	Aaron Williams
do	Chairman	Chairman
do	Secretary	Secretary

Let the Reading Railroad authorities adjust the differences between themselves and their men in a spirit of fairness to all. Let arbitration settle disputes in the future and let the men rid themselves of the miscreants who order them into a strike through a whim or even worse, through bribery. Get rid of the Jonahs that are destroying the order and pauperizing the labor of the country.

The Gazette affidavit mill had to run last week in defence of the Republican sheriff. We don't take much stock in an affidavit at any time and we would have suggested to brother Feidler, that an Alibi would have been much stronger as a defence, but we were not consulted. Indeed like the ragged thief in Ermini we would say: "It is my first offence and I can prove a halibi." As between an affidavit and an alibi give us the alibi every time. There is an element of impossibility about an alibi which goes to the marrow of a case, and works an acquittal before the bar of the public that cannot be reached by an affidavit. But where an alibi cannot be established we think that an affidavit will be admitted by the public for what it is worth. It is fair to say for the Republican sheriff that the scandal has been fixed up. Elsewhere in the paper will be found a statement of the charges against sheriff Cook and the affidavit of the other party concerned.

The Blair Educational bill has passed the Senate by a very meager majority and if it gets through the house at all we hope will be confronted with a Presidential veto. When any State in this Union can't educate her children she should ask to be relegated to the realms of territorial dependency. The facts concerning the education of children in public schools are against the assumption of poverty on the part of the States. There is not a child in the United States to-day deprived of the privilege of securing an education through the inability of any State to support its public schools. Poverty of the individual child, of its parents, negligence on the part of the parent to send his child to school, opposition and a dozen other causes cannot be cured by a lavish expenditure of money by the United States government. As well might the government feed and clothe the child while attending school.

We have right here in our own midst children growing up in dense ignorance but it is not from any lack of school facilities. It is crimi-

nal negligence, rarely the poverty of the parents. If the advocates of the Blair educational bill will take another tack they can accomplish more than by the expenditure of millions of the governments money through the States. Ask each State to pass a compulsory educational law, keep children out of factories, shops' stores and off the streets during the school term and illiteracy will be banished very soon. It is not that States are poor, but that parents are indifferent, or negligent.

What of Michigan.

The result of the election in the 11th Congress district is, whether Seymour, Republican or Broom, Democrat, be elected on the official count, a victory for the tariff reformers and a pleasant pointer for the Western Congressmen to take hold of. The district is naturally Republican by from 6000 to 7000, and in 1884 was carried by the Republicans by over seven thousand. In 1886, after Cleveland's administration had demonstrated to the world that the business interests of the County were safe in the hands of the Democrats, the Republican majority on a square Revenue revision and tariff reform issue was reduced to less than 2500. In the election, held to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Moffet the Republican member. Tariff revision was again the issue and Seymour was compelled by his party to pledge himself to vote for a revision of the tariff if elected. This action in a Republican stronghold and heretofore the banner protection district of the State indicates that the people are becoming alive to their interests and are demanding of their Representatives a fulfillment of the pledges made nearly four years ago. Should Seymour come from the 11th district, he comes pledged by this party to vote for a revision of the tariff, should Broom the Democrat come he comes pledged by his party, its policy and traditions to do for his people what he can in adjusting the great question, in either case it is a gain for tariff reform and from a direction in which the Republicans and their Democratic allies may expect a political blizzard. Verily the good work goes on and an era of continued prosperity of reduced taxation and increased work may be expected.

Slavery in Pennsylvania.

Master Workman Lewis has received several telegrams indicating that there has been discrimination on the first day of the resumption. He says, if the statements contained in them are found to be true, work will be stopped in the entire Schuylkill region within three days, and should it come to this the order will include not only miners, but engineers, firemen, pump men and everybody connected with the mines. When Lewis was asked if he possessed a full authority to order the men out again, he stated that he did!—Associated Press Dispatch February 21, 1888.

When we remember that in the Schuylkill region the Reading Coal and Iron Company has in its employ over 18000 miners, and including engineers, firemen and pumpmen, over twenty thousand men, who are dependent upon their daily labor for the support of themselves and their families, the statement that one man has the power and authority to order them all to quit work, and they must each and every one obey this order on pain of being boycotted is a startling one. It makes no difference how well satisfied the laborers may be with their wages and treatment, how willing they may be to work, how anxious they may be to earn food and clothing for their suffering families. Master Workman Lewis, by a simple order can compel more than twenty thousand men, who ought

to be freemen, to remain idle until he sees fit to give them permission to earn their daily bread. Any organization which thus enslaves its members deprives them of liberty and freedom to act for themselves, and puts them absolutely under the control of masters, is anti-American, and does not deserve the sympathy respect, or good will of any free born citizen of a republic.

Laboring men have rights which every one ought to respect. They are sometimes subjected to wrongs which all right thinking men deplore. Their most sacred right is the right to labor and earn for themselves and their dependants an honest living, when they are willing and anxious to work, and the most foul wrong that any power can inflict upon them is to deprive them of this right.

The Strike.

The strike of the Knights of Labor against the Reading Coal and Iron Company is over. In its inception it was wrong in its results it is a complete and inglorious failure. The miners have accepted the terms dictated by Corbin when the strike began, have gone to work at the old rate and have abandoned the Reading railroad men to their fate. 2600 of the latter will never get employment under the Reading Company, and the leaders and violent element among both classes will get no work. These are the actual facts in the case. Now, what has been the effect on the people of the state? The miners have been idle for two months, have lost in wages hundreds of thousands of dollars, have been a tax on their brothers all over the country, and have accomplished nothing for themselves.

The Reading Coal and Iron Company have lost money running up into the millions. Thousands of poor people have had to pay increased and exorbitant prices for coal, that had the strike not occurred would not have been burdened with this additional expense. Factories mills and iron works have shut down for lack of fuel and their hands have been thrown idle. Does it pay to strike? The men go back at the old rates, and they cannot make up in a year what they have lost in the past two months. Who orders the strikes? Is it the men who toil in the bowels of the earth, who go in at early morn and come out in the evening grim, sooty and tired? Are they the men who order the strikes? No, it is the fellow at the head of the Assembly who toils not neither does he spin, whose hands are strangers to pick and shovel, whose back is never bent to hard toil and who stands around the street corners railing at capital at law and order. It is this class of men who order strikes and entail untold misery on their fellow men. Will organized labor learn a lesson from the cold facts forced on it by this Reading strike? Will it get rid of its politicians, its loafers, its agitators and put at the head of every Assembly men who earn their bread by hard and honest toil, men respected by both capital and labor, and with whom every fair employer will consult on matters of wages, or arbitrate differences. By arbitration almost any difference can be settled between labor and capital to the mutual advantage of both.

It has come to that now in the late contest and on the terms of Capital. Cool level headed sons of toil at the head of the miners organization would have adjusted the differences by arbitration two months ago. There is another fact that should impress itself on every member of the Knights of labor organization, and that is the right of the people who constitute the laboring classes of this country they

only at the maximum constitute one seventh, that the other six sevenths are to a certain extent affected by strikes—that at least a sixth of unorganized labor is willing to take the place of the strikers and render the strike unsuccessful. That every man has a perfect right to sell his labor for the price that suits him, to whom he pleases, when, where and how he pleases, as long as he violates no law of his country. That very interference with this right on the part of any one, or of any organization is a violation of rights guaranteed under the constitution of every State and of the United States, and an interference that public opinion will condemn. The cardinal principle then with the Knights of Labor should be Arbitration. Avoid strikes by all means they never pay anybody except the fellow who orders them.

Desirable Changes.

The Government Printing Office had become under Republican rule an asylum for decayed politicians and dependents of Congressmen. The party was naturally unwilling to part with so beneficent an alms house, and when a Democratic Public Printer was appointed who determined to turn it into a business department he naturally became a target for Republican marksmen.

Mr. Benedict has been as well abused as any Democratic officeholder in Washington. Among other charges he has been accused of having squandered the public moneys in the purchase of printing ink from favored individuals, pushing aside the old contractors. It seems to be true that Mr. Benedict has made changes in this direction as the two subjoined bills, closely following each other, will show:

Bill No. 1.
The United States (purchased by S. P. BROWN).
To G. B. KANE & Co. Dr.
1886, Sept. 14, For 812 pounds of web-press ink, at 40c.....\$324.80

Bill No. 2.
The United States (purchased by T. E. BENDER).
To FRED H. LEVET & Co. Dr.
1886, Oct. 2, For 655 pounds web-press ink, at 11c.....\$72.05

For the last year of Republican administration in the Government Printing Office the average cost of ink was 66.17 cents per pounds. For the first year of Democratic administration in that office the average cost of ink was 24.85 cents per pound, and the net saving was \$12,306.52.

The Democratic National Convention.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb. 18.—The Representatives of San Francisco claim to have secured twenty-seven votes in the Democratic National Committee for the selection of their city as the place for the next Democratic National Convention. They offer free transportation to delegates and newspaper correspondents and free entertainment to delegates.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—A big delegation of Chicago Democrats, headed by General R. J. Smith, left this afternoon on the Pennsylvania limited for the purpose of capturing the Democratic National Convention. The delegation is an imposing one, including bankers, hotel men, journalists, lawyers and representative local politicians of the party, and it has gone to Washington with confidence in its ability to secure the coveted prize. The subscriptions to the required fund already exceed \$25,000, and guarantees have been given beyond this amount up to the possible limit of need. The Jackson League will send a large delegation forward tomorrow evening.

THE MINERS' STRIKE OFF.

THE QUESTION OF WAGES TO BE ARBITRATED.

THE RAILROADERS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD.

AND THE LEADERS OF THAT STRIKE SAID TO BE INDIGNANT AT THE TURN AFFAIRS HAVE TAKEN.

PHILADELPHIA, February 17.—Every indication points to a resumption of work in the mines of the Schuylkill region by Monday morning next. Master Workman Lewis, who has absolute control of all matters pertaining to the miners, was in the city to-day for the purpose of bringing to a climax the views expressed in the correspondence between himself and President Corbin, which was made public this afternoon. It is learned upon unquestionable authority that the conditional agreement was made between Lewis and Corbin provides that the miners shall return to work by Monday morning next. The only condition named in the agreement is that Lewis shall submit it to the joint executive board of the Miner's and Laborers' Amalgamated association and Knights of Labor for their approval before it shall become operative and for this purpose he went to Pottsville to attend the meeting of the board to night.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., February 17.—The following letters have been exchanged between Messrs. Corbin and Lewis:

PHILADELPHIA, February 16, 1888.—Austin Corbin, esq.—Sir:—Being desirous to bring the strike in the mining region of the Reading coal and iron company to a close in order to get the working people in and about these mines to work, and speaking for these workmen I propose to order a resumption of work at once upon your assurance that I can promise the men that after they have gone to work and the mining operations are in regular progress, the subject of wages will be considered in conference between the company and its employees or their representative, and upon the further assurance that no one shall be discriminated against by reason of his connection with the strike.

Yours, etc.,

[Signed] WILLIAM T. LEWIS.

PHILADELPHIA, February 17, 1888.—Mr. William T. Lewis: My Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your favor of this date. Have consulted Mr. Keim, president of the coal and iron company, in relation to its contents and am authorized by him to say that it is substantially in accordance with our position and such action would be satisfactory to us. No one will be discriminated against because of his connection with the strike, so that it is not understood as protecting such men as have made or attempted to make personal assaults upon the men remaining at work, and provided further that in any conference over wages the miners are not to expect us to pay a higher rate of wages for mining than those paid by the other coal-producing companies in competition with us, namely the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, Delaware and Hudson, Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, and the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre company, but with the understanding they are willing to adopt the basis that we give our miners as much as are paid by either of these companies. It is understood that the wages to be paid on returning to work will be on the old \$2.50 basis, and will remain under that basis until a change shall be mutually agreed upon.

Yours truly,

[Signed] AUSTIN CORBIN.

IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION TO BE ORDERED.

POTTSVILLE, February 17.—Meetings of the joint committee and also of the district assembly of the Knights of Labor, which embraces the pumping and hauling engineers, were in session here during the day, and after adjournment the members of both bodies denied any information of the reported ordering off of the strike and declared their unbelief in the authenticity of the report. All doubts were dissolved,

however, by the arrival this evening from Philadelphia of Master Workman Lewis, who immediately went into consultation with the members of the joint committee, with the result that an address will be issued at once, ordering immediate resumption. This sudden turn in affairs produces the liveliest gratification among all classes except the striking railroaders, who are thus abandoned to their fate.

Lee and other railroad leaders are furious at Master Workman Lewis and unsparing in their denunciation of his alleged perfidy. They are in close communication to-night, presumably striving to devise some expedient to meet the new phase of the situation, but the universal opinion among the outside community is that the railroad strike is now a hopelessly lost cause. The question is being discussed incidentally as to the ability of the railroad to handle the coal traffic in the event of a simultaneous resumption. It may be assumed that there would be little serious trouble in this particular. During the suspension the company has had an opportunity of training a considerable number of new men, while with comparatively few exceptions the strikers would be taken on as fast as they applied as individuals which there is every reason to believe, under now existing circumstances they would do promptly and in large numbers.

THE READING MINERS TO RESUME MONDAY.

POTTSVILLE Pa., February 17.—The following was signed to night and at once given out to representatives of the press:

POTTSVILLE Pa., February 17.—To the employees of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company: You are hereby notified to resume work Monday morning, February 20, as per letter of Austin Corbin, esq., of 17th inst., which is accepted, as a basis of settlement. The above does not include any company but the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, as they are the only ones to agree to the terms of settlement. Hence we would urge upon the miners of the Lehigh region, including the Panther Creek Valley, the necessity of maintaining a firm stand until those companies are willing to submit the questions involved to a conference with the assurance that no victimizing will take place after the starting of the mines. Workingmen everywhere we appeal to you to double your efforts in behalf of our Lehigh brothers. Send aid for that region to D. M. Evans, Freeland, Pa., or John Meighan, Freeland, Pa.

[Signed] W. T. LEWIS.

Master Workman.

National District Assembly 135.

John H. Davis, chairman of the joint executive committee.

Richard Thompson, master workman of district 12.

Isaac Renn, master workman of district 142.

Chairman Lee says a meeting of the Reading railroader's convention will be held in this city on Sunday, and that unless the railroad company comes to terms with the men, the railroad strikes will be prosecuted more vigorously than ever.

Billy Maloney Sails for England.

HALIFAX, N. S. February 19.—Billy Maloney, the New York boodler, arrived on the Quebec express yesterday afternoon and immediately sailed on the Vancouver for England. The train was three hours behind time and the steamer was awaiting her arrival. Maloney was quite civil to the newspaper men, but firmly declined to say anything of consequence. His 15 year old boy went with him to England, but the rest of the family remained in Montreal.

An Oyster Pirate Captain Killed.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., February 19.—During an attempt to arrest an illegal dredger today, the State oyster police schooner Folly was attacked by three vessels and considerable shooting was done on both sides. After the fray it was discovered that Captain Whitehouse, of the schooner Albert Nichols, of Baltimore, had been killed.