

# The Centre Democrat.

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## The Centre Democrat.

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### INTERESTING CONTEST.

The contested Judgeship now being investigated in Lycoming county by Judges Bucher, Mayer and Rockefeller attracts much attention. Politicians and legal students are noting carefully the decisions of these three jurists on certain points involved.

It appears that in several districts in Lycoming county the voting was done at polls placed outside of the district; townships held elections in boroughs in the townships and in towns that were adjacent to these townships. In these places it appears that Metzger, the Judge elected by 41 majority, made great gains over his opponent B. A. Bently.

In the petition submitted to Governor Beaver, praying for an investigation the claim was made that the votes cast at polls outside of districts were illegal and should not be counted. In this event Metzger would be defeated and Bently would be declared elected.

The outcome in this case is one of vital importance to voters in Centre county. For many years Spring and Benner townships have held their elections at the Court House in Bellefonte borough; Northern precinct of Potter at the Hotel in Centre Hall; and other townships hold elections outside of their district.

The first section of the 8th article of the Constitution says the voter "shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election."

The casting out of such votes would have the effect of changing results of elections in our county and the outcome of the Lycoming contest will be watched with great interest.

In regard to this question the Philadelphia Times makes the following comments:

The Constitution seems to be explicit in commanding that every voter "shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election," and the possibilities of elections for townships held in adjacent villages outside of the election precinct being set aside by Courts or Legislatures as unlawful, should prompt the citizens of every such township to move at once in the local courts to have a new voting place designated within the township or election precinct. We repeat that such action will be equally important for the future safety of elections, regardless of the decision that may be given in the Lycoming judicial contest. There is no appeal to the Supreme Court to make a construction that would be binding upon all the Judges of the State, and the decision in the Lycoming case might be reversed by another Judge or Judges within a year without appeal, while no judicial decision, even of the Supreme Court if it could be had, would be binding in a Legislative contest. There is safety in elections only in positive obedience to the letter of the law, and all townships now voting in adjacent villages should at once have polling places changed to some convenient point within the limits of the election precinct.

A TREMENDOUS large thing in the way of a monster gun is being made at the Woolwich arsenal, England. It is to be a 200 toner, and the special machinery required to lift it upon its carriages will cost \$110,000. Its projectile is to weigh two tons and when it is mounted on some point off the English coast it is expected to drop into these 4,000 pounds of shrapnel every five minutes to a distance of fifteen miles. This will make an invasion more than ever a thing of the future, when the English channel can be swept from the shores nearly all the way to France. If things go on at this rate there seems to be no particular reason why London and Paris should not bombard each other direct by tilting the noses of their guns sufficiently into the air.

### IT IS THE PHARISEES.

Judge Gresham, when lately questioned as to the appalling corruption into which both parties plunged themselves into the late contest for the control of the pivotal States, uttered this stinging sentence—"It is the Pharisees who are doing this. It is men of prominence and respectability who raise these sums of money knowing the use that they will put on; to men who deal openly in corruption one day and go to church the next."

But the work of the Pharisees did not stop with merely debauching the ballot. Both sides were equally involved in that; but in another and vastly more criminal and disgraceful work, the Pharisees of only one side were engaged in a systematic scandle-bureau to invade the happy domestic circle of the President, and spread the most cowardly and venomous scandles through religious and home circles. It was a studied effort to blacken the character of Mr. Cleveland by the most infamous falsehood that hired pimps and disreputables of both sexes could invent.

The article copied to-day from the New York Mail and Express is the first public confession of the Pharisees' scandle-bureau as a carefully planned factor in the late campaign. This article comes from a journal that was in closest confidence with the party leadership of the contest, and that it conducted by Mr. Shepard, one of the most blatant religionists of the country. As intimated by the Telegraph of this city, Mr. Shepard had just returned from the National Capital, where he was "posing before the nation as the special friend and champion of the Sabbath," when he published the infamous confession of his scandle-bureau that was fed by his "scarlet women and their pals, his lying spies, and his reeking dark-house bloodhounds."

"It is the pharisees who are doing this," Judge Gresham well says, and the Telegraph truthfully adds that "in comparison with such work, the social and political sins of Aaron Burr were as driven snow." In all the deepest depth of infamy into which partisanship has plunged in the past, it never approached in monstrous malignity the new confessed efforts of Mr. SHEPARD'S Pharisaical scandle-bureau, with its boasted reports of the slums, of the fence-shop and the brothel.

The foregoing article we clip from the Philadelphia Times of Dec. 18, 1888, and strongly commend it to our readers. During its existence, the Times has done much good in exposing and denouncing evil practices, frauds, deceits and crimes of various kinds, and the perpetrators of the same. The public is much indebted to that independent and courageous paper for its course in this regard. We hope it will continue in the good work to the end of its career. Several times since the election, the saying of Judge Gresham has been quoted in that paper and made the basis of denunciation, not only by the class described but by leading individuals representing that class. Dudley and Shepard have received merited castigation at the hands of Col. McClure. Why has he omitted to apply the last to the representative man of all the class, living in his own city?

During the campaign it was announced in all the newspapers that John Wanamaker had subscribed a large sum, (a small fortune in itself) and had collected from other wealthy Republicans other large sums, amounting in the aggregate to about half a million of dollars, and himself took this money to New York, to be sure it was placed where "it would do the most good." This money was not given and collected by Wanamaker for any legitimate campaign purposes, but with the knowledge and purpose that it would be used to corrupt the voters of the doubtful States, and by this means secure the electoral vote of these States for Harrison.

Wanamaker is the typical pharisee described by Judge Gresham. No prominent business man has advertised his piety and religion to so great an extent as he has done; or made more "godly gain" out of his reputation of being a saint. He is prominently and strongly urged for a place in Harrison's cabinet, and the only real reason is, the part he took in raising the corruption fund to carry New York and Indiana. If he did what he is credited with having done, his proper place is in the penitentiary and not in the cabinet of an American President.

Quay, Rutan, Leeds, Voorhes, De-paney and that gang, make no pretence of religion, party or even decency. They all openly admit that the "end justifies the means." But John Wanamaker pretends to be a christian, although he evidently has as little conception of the principles and teachings of the "Meek and lowly one," as a rhinoceros has of moral suasion. It requires the respectability of such "Christian Statesmen" as he is to make the corrupt practices of the other class palatable. Why does not the Times properly castigate this representative pharisee? Is Wanamaker's long advertisement in the Times the explanation?

TEACHERS are too numerous to mention—all are attending institutes.

### THE REMEDY.

At the meeting of the grangers, in Harrisburg last week, much was said in regard to evil legislation, unequal taxation and other things that are oppressive to the farming community in the State. The Patriot answers with the following timely remarks:

The election is over but the people, the farmers among the rest, are still thinking about the burdens and restrictions of the tariff. Banquo's ghost will not down at the bidding of the monopolists, but is the liveliest kind of a spectre. It turns up on every occasion at the wassail of the millionaires rejoicing over their temporary and ill-gotten triumph at the polls; in the counting room of the manufacturer who hopes in vain for relief from the unnecessary and stupid taxation of his raw material and for a fair chance to sell his goods in an unrestricted market; at the meetings of the workmen who find themselves at the beginning of winter put on half-time or out of work altogether because of the inevitable "shut-down" occasioned by an over stocked home market; and now at the meeting of the State Grange which has been "run" in the interest of "protection" and the Republican party. It will continue to haunt the minds of thinking men until the "damned spot" which "will not out," the legislative sanction of the plunder of the American people by a privileged class, shall have been utterly wiped away.

### GOING AHEAD WITH THE PANAMA CANAL.

For many months the newspapers in this country hostile to the Panama Canal have been filled with predictions of the utter failure of the project. The death-rattle, they said, was already in its throat, as no financiers in France or elsewhere would risk their money in so desperate a venture. But in the midst of these predictions the news came from Paris that the fresh loan of 400,000 Panama bonds had been taken with eagerness and enthusiasm. It is reported that 410,000 bonds were subscribed for in Paris alone, and an equal amount in the Provinces—or double the subscription asked for. This will put nearly \$190,000,000 into the treasury of the Panama Company.

The new subscription is a remarkable manifestation of popular faith among the French people in the Panama Canal, and it is not strange that the venerable De Lesseps should have wept for joy in witnessing this fresh proof of confidence. In the construction of the Suez Canal he experienced similar trials and triumphs. He rejoices that this enormous amount of Panama bonds has been taken without the aid of the financiers or the Government. It is evident that the French people regard the Panama Canal with pride as a national enterprise, and that they are prepared to make great financial sacrifices rather than permit it to fail. There will probably be no necessity for the French Government to lend the undertaking any financial assistance. But should such necessity arise, the aid could be rendered without putting the canal under government control and without arousing international jealousies.

### THE DIRECT TAX BILL.

The bill to return to the States the amount of direct taxes paid into the Federal Treasury upward of a quarter of a century ago has passed the House, with one unimportant amendment, by a large majority, although the vote in its favor would not be sufficient to save it from the effects of a veto. While the Republicans unanimously supported the job, they were assisted by a number of Democrats who are always on the alert when the matter in hand is a Treasury appropriation.

The direct tax was levied under an act of Congress passed in 1861 for raising money to carry on the civil war. The law imposed on the several States yearly payments in proportion to their population; and after one payment the law was repealed. About \$15,000,000 was paid in, and this sum, with 15 per cent. commission, it is proposed by the bill to return to the States. The total amount is about \$17,000,000, of which the National Treasury surplus would be relieved in order to create a needless surplus in many State Treasuries.

By passing this bill the House has recognized the policy of distributing the surplus in the Treasury among the several States. Should it become a law some of the legislative jobbery that is attracted by needless accumulations of public money would be transferred from the National Capitol to the lobbies of the several State Legislatures, and the States would also have their surplus, to attract the cormorants that fatten on public plunder.

No member of the House who voted for this Direct Tax bill could consistently oppose the Blair Educational job or any other of the schemes for distributing the Treasury surplus and making the States the poor and beggarly dependents of a rich and powerful centralized government. There is little or no doubt that this Direct Tax bill was so strongly supported with a view to making it a precedent for more gigantic raids in the near future upon the public Treasury.

The report of the chief of the bureau of statistics on the foreign commerce of the United States for the year ending June 30th 1888, has been issued. It shows a decrease of \$20,228,704 in the value of exports of merchandise and an increase of \$31,637,346 in the value of imports of merchandise. The imports exceeded the exports by more than twenty-eight million dollars. It is shown that our exports have shown a decrease from the figure of 1881 every year since while imports show an increase in the same years excepting in 1885 and 1886 when they were less than in 1881. The recent decline in the value of export and imports is ascribed to the decline of prices at home and abroad. Our foreign commerce amounted to \$1,424,110,569 but the foreign commerce of Great Britain in the same time amounted to \$3,225,632,672; France, \$1,771,913,700. So we stand fourth on the list of nations in the value of our commerce, but more than 78 per cent. of the vessels sailing from our ports are foreign, and American tonnage at our seaports continues to decrease. Only 13.48 per cent. of our foreign trade, measured by its value, is carried in foreign vessels, while 80.93 per cent is carried in foreign vessels. Only 7.45 per cent. of it is conducted in steamers bearing our flag, "while 79.13 per cent. while all its profits and the enjoyment of capital and labor, is conducted in alien steam vessels." In the past 32 years the proportion of value carried in our own vessels has fallen from 75 to 31.48 per cent. Our exports then, in 1856, were only \$852,698 and our imports \$960,385.

No unprejudiced man can study this report without being impressed with a feeling that something badly needs attention.

### GOOD VORK WELL DONE.

Two important achievements stand out prominently in the report of Secretary Whitney of the navy department.

In March 1885, when the Cleveland administration went in, we relied on English workshops for armor plates and steel forging for heavy guns. At that time contracts with English manufacturers were pending for armor and gun steel, amounting to \$227,365. Secretary Whitney at once discontinued purchases abroad, and set himself to the encouragement of an American plant that would meet the requirements of our coming navy, by contract with the Bethlehem Steel Work in this State. The result that we have now an American plant "equal to any probably the superior of any in the world for the producing of armor and the forging for high powered guns." This was the first step towards the creation of a modern navy.

Four years ago the construction in America of a first-class armored vessel was impossible. Secretary Whitney has changed all this. To-day they are building in the ship-yards a dozen armored and unarmored cruisers and every bolt is made and every bar is wrought by American hands and in American shops. The United States is independent. Everything for a first-class fighting ship can be produced and furnished to the department by our own factories. The actual work of construction is being pushed with energy. "When the ships in course of construction," says the Secretary, "and these authorized shall have been completed, the United States will rank second among the nations in possession of unarmored cruisers or commerce destroyers."

It shows the introduction of improved business methods that notwithstanding the large expenditures of the department for the three years ending June 30, 1888, having been reduced over 20 per cent. compared with the three preceding years under Republican administration. The aggregates are: For three years under Republican rule, \$30,221,531; for three years under Democratic rule, \$15,920,143. This saving of \$14,300,000 is a fair start toward paying for the new navy. In no case has any appropriation been over-drawn, and there has been no deficiency bills.

We are in a fair way to have a navy no American need be ashamed of in contrast with the fleet of recent and unseaworthy tubs bequeathed to the Cleveland administration. Secretary Whitney's splendid administrative capacity makes plain sailing for his successors.—Pittsburg Post.

### THE REFORM MAKES FRIENDS.

The recent unsavory method pursued by both parties in elections have given to the electoral reform a wonderful boom. The papers and the people are talking of it now over the country more than any other one thing except who is to get the postoffice.

The Australian plan of voting whereby a secret ballot shall be secured and the use of money in large degree removed from the campaign, is one of the most favored, and papers regardless of party are urging the friends of purity in election to unite to bring about its adoption.

The New York Standard, which has been one of the most energetic to push the question of ballot reform says of it:

Panel laws are ineffectual to prevent bribery and intimidation. The primary remedy is a secret ballot. And this is best secured when the only proof of an elector's vote is his own uncorroborated assertion. Under the Australian system no other proof can be made. The fact gives to the most timid among dependent voters a sense of security which makes him free. And to bribery it is fatal. Bribers are not likely to invest money on the faith of a bribed man's naked assertion; if there be such a virtue as "honesty among thieves," it is not acceptable security to the thieves themselves.

But secrecy, though the primary remedy for bribery and intimidation is not all that is required to purify election; nor the only remedy the Australian system offers.

The printing and distribution of ballots is a most important part of election machinery and left to private enterprise inevitably tends as does the farming out of any other public function, to breed corruption and build up monopoly. It makes a necessity for irresponsible organizations which come to wield autocratic power over the political party they claim to serve, and in turn, through discipline almost military in severity, are determined by an inner circle of "leaders." As ballots can neither be printed or distributed without money and may not be faithfully handled unless trusty workers are rewarded with more than an election day stipend, the organization undertaking the work has a plausible if not a reasonable claim for from its beneficiaries and officials patronage for its retainers. It is the necessity of raising these funds and employing these "workers" that justifies assessments, gives color of voluntary contributions to what in truth are sales of nomination, excuses the submission of official patronage to the distribution of the machine, provides ample cover for collecting a corruption fund and though "workers at the polls, as convenient channel for disbursing the fund in bribes.

By the Australian system a voter is given a ballot containing all the name of the candidates of all the parties like the following:

	For Mayor	Vote for One
Democratic	John Doe.	
Republican	Richard Roe	
Prohibition	D. Smith.	
Independent	S. Jones.	

He takes this and retires to a private booth. There he sets a cross mark after the name of the candidate he desires to vote for, and having prepared his ballot he folds it up and comes out and deposits it in the ballot box. Nobody is allowed about the polls except as he goes to vote, and one man is not permitted to be with another while preparing ballots.

In this way secrecy is preserved and with secrecy bribery and intimidation are impossible.

The outlook is that the Australian plan of voting will be adopted in many States this winter. It goes into effect in Massachusetts in 1889 and is already in use in a modified way in other places.

THE gross receipts of the State department for the fiscal year ending November 30 were \$7,447,050.42, and the expenditures \$7,388,055.55. Among the receipts were \$81.55 conscience money. The liquor licenses brought in \$200,601.33 and the bonus on charters \$164,408.58. The judiciary cost of the State \$500,611.02, and the Legislature cost \$28,673.92. To charitable institutions were given \$1,063,677.91, common schools, \$1,918,257.58, and soldiers' orphans schools \$336,419.22.

A NEW system of voting will go into effect in Massachusetts two years hence by which it will be impossible for employees or others to intimidate their employers or know how they vote. Every voter will go into the polling booth alone, where, unseen by employer, detective or any other person of the single ballot the name he desires to vote for, the ticket being similar to those used at our primary elections.

### INADJOINING COUNTIES.

Bedford people are agitating the question of building a new court house and jail.

Rev. J. T. Gladhill, pastor of the Lutheran church in Newport, has tendered his resignation.

Frank Bottorf, of Flemington, Clinton county, had his hip broken by a huge log rolling over him.

About twenty Lock Havenites have been arrested for stealing coal off the cars and from the railroad company.

Petty thieves are annoying the people of Milford township, Juniata county. Even school houses are not exempt from their raids.

H. Alleman, of Allemanville, Clearfield county, was thrown from his wagon on the 7th, sustaining an ugly gash above his left eye and injury to his shoulder and one hand.

Rev. James J. McDonnell, of Mifflintown, has succeeded Rev. F. X. Kettle as pastor of the Catholic church of Huntingdon, Mr. Kettle having been transferred to Kittanning, Pa.

Grantam T. Waters, of Lewistown, died last Wednesday. He was a veteran of the late war, a member of the famous Logan Guards, and of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Pennsylvania regiment.

George A. Park lives near the Cass township (Huntingdon county) line, but on the Clay township side. He voted at Cassville, in Cass township, stating that he lived in Cass. The election officers advised him to move his bed to the other corner of the house and he could vote in either township.

Albright Swineford, of Middleburg. Snyder county, is dead at the age of 92. He was a survivor of the war of 1812, and requested to be buried with the honors of war. His father was the founder of Middleburg, which was formerly known as Swineford-stetle. The funeral ceremonies were in the county court house.

C. H. Matthias, a young man who had been earning money on a wood job at Donation, visited Huntingdon on the 10th inst. He fell in with parties who were posted where illicit liquor was to be had. When they left him well soaked inwardly and minus \$50, he was found standing in the canal well soaked outwardly to his neck in water.

Information is wanted concerning John H. Reighard, who went into the union service from Bedford county. The papers needed to establish his identity were burned some years ago, and the widow cannot remember the number of his regiment. The widow and a sick son are destitute. Information should be addressed to Major D. W. Mullin, Bedford.

A Swede named Doneison, aged about 17 years, was sentenced to three and a half years to the Huntingdon reformatory by Judge Krebs, of Clearfield. The young man stole a horse of Dr. Petri, grew at Du Bois on the 29th ult., was brought to jail the next day and last week received his sentence. This is about the first sentence to the new institution.

The total vote cast at the last Presidential election was 11,340,518, an increase of 2,136,690 over 1880. Assuming that the vote cast in 1888 bore the same relation to the total population as the vote of 1880 bore to the total population in the census year, it would appear that there has been a growth of 10,396,503 in eight years, and that a count of heads at the present time would show population of 59,767,813 in the United States.

The United States as a country is flooded with refuse emigration from the old world. They pour in upon our shores by thousands and so enormous is the annual influx that it has become a source of solicitude and is looked upon as being somewhat dangerous to free institutions. The following embraces the views of several of our Consuls upon this important subject:

H. Albert Johnson, Consul at Venice, Italy, says: "Emigrants are recruited from those people whom, as a rule, their native country does not wish to retain. They are often fugitives from justice, and in many cases, those leaving their native countries to evade legitimate duties imposed by law—men whose stupid ignorance is unequalled by any other class of people found in the civilized world. They are no more fitted to perform the duties of citizenship than slaves newly released from bondage. They have no intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. They desire simply to get more money for their work and to decrease as much as possible the amount of work done for the money received."