

The Centre Democrat.

Vol. 13 BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1891. NO. 38

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ. - - - EDITOR

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Regular Price \$1.50 per year. When Paid in Advance \$1.00. When subscriptions are not paid inside of three years \$2.00 will be charged.

Editorial.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

For Auditor General. ROBERT E. WRIGHT, of Lehigh Co.

For State Treasurer. A. L. TILDEN, of Erie County.

For Delegates to Constitutional Convention: WILLIAM BIGLER, of Clearfield county. ELLIS L. ORVIS, of Centre county.

Delegates to Constitutional Convention. Chas. R. Buckalew, Geo. A. Jenks, Sam'l G. Thompson, Henry N. Scott, Wm. S. McLean, Jno. Latta, William Welthe, Samuel Griffith, Geo. W. Zeigler.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

Jury Commissioner—GEORGE BOWEN.

COME TO THE POINT.

For several years past there has been a continual warfare waged against Jas. Schofield, the late overseer of the poor of this boro, by the republican press. Since his resignation, last June, the attack has been vigorously continued. He is charged with misappropriating the funds, recklessness, extravagance, and giving orders and moneys for political advantages. Up to this date no such charge has been proven and the source of the article, from the previous record of the accusing paper, carries with it a strong element of doubt. From what we have observed in this discussion, we know that the Gazette has, without a doubt, willingly and maliciously preferred charges against Mr. Schofield, that it, at the time, knew were not just, or even true.

On the other hand Mr. Schofield charges McClure of using the department to build up his harness trade, has unnecessarily increased the expenditures and even used the funds to win political favor and support.

This week we give Mr. Schofield considerable space to answer his assailant—a matter that is of interest only to the taxpayers of Bellefonte; and to them it is a very important affair as in the past year their poor taxes have been raised to 8 mills—the burden has been doubled. Some one certainly is responsible for all this; and if the matter continues to be discussed in the same manner as in the past, the public will never know any better.

Who is guilty? That is the question that must be answered. To forever settle this matter, and take it out of the hands of the papers, an investigation should follow at once. The people demand it, irrespective of politics.

For these reasons we call upon Geo. L. Potter, president of the boro council, to order an investigation. Let the committee consist of the present board of boro auditors, and when their work is completed and published the nature will have something of a reliable nature to act upon.

It is time that newspaper assaults cease, as an overtaxed people are indignant. Let there be an investigation.

At the conference in Lock Haven, last week, Ellis L. Orvis, Esq., was chosen as one of the two democratic nominees of this district as delegates to the proposed constitutional convention. This is a decided compliment to our young legal friend and a fitting recognition of his ability. Should the convention be established Mr. Orvis would serve in that august body with distinction, and credit to his constituency. Though the convention may receive little endorsement in this district, we predict for him a handsome vote.

It seems that the public mind, in this state, is entirely diverted from the question of a constitutional convention, by the scandals and thefts of our state officials. That measure will go under by an overwhelming defeat.

HOW IT WAS DONE.

HOW THE STATE TREASURY WAS LOOTED.

McCament Carried the Money to Bardsley—Why the extra Session of the Senate is called.

The case against Auditor General McCament and State Treasurer Boyer is in a nutshell and is within the easy comprehension of every citizen of the State. Indeed, it is so plain and unanswerable, as elucidated by the Bardsley letters, that Governor Pattison has simply performed his sworn duty by summoning the accused officials to the bar of the Senate.

Here are the positive, undisputed facts as summed up by the Philad. Times:

1. On the 1st of January, 1891, and for some time previous, there was about \$500,000 of money in the State Treasury in excess of the amount allowed by law; that excess the law positively commands shall, from time to time, at stated periods, be invested in government or state bonds and placed in the sinking fund. This clear and emphatic mandate of the law was deliberately violated, and how?

2. As Governor Pattison was about to come into office, this excess of nearly \$500,000 had to be disposed of in some way or invested in bonds for the sinking fund, and they lost it from the speculative funds of the Treasury. A school warrant of \$425,000 was issued, in flagrant violation of law because five months in advance of the time when the school appropriation was available by law, and that warrant was brought to Philadelphia by Treasurer Boyer and delivered in person to John Bardsley, when Bardsley was indebted to the State over \$1,000,000.

3. That Auditor General McCament was a party to this lawlessness by which \$425,000, due to the sinking fund, was taken from the Treasury and delivered to Bardsley is evident from McCament's letter to Bardsley, dated January 1, '91, saying—"Livsey says Boyer will take to you the school warrants in person. A happy New Year to you." Boyer did deliver the warrants to Bardsley and Bardsley stole the money.

4. The \$425,000 thus placed in Bardsley's hands to steal, was—first, due to the sinking fund; second, it was not available under the law for school purposes until five months thereafter. It was thus lawlessly taken from the sinking fund; was lawlessly taken on school warrants for which the appropriation was not available; was lawlessly paid to a City Treasurer who lawlessly owed the State over \$1,000,000, and was lawlessly stolen, with the other million, because of the lawless acts and lawless neglect of the Auditor General and State Treasurer.

Governor Pattison has not only performed an imperative and sworn duty in calling the Senate and summoning the accused officials to its bar for trial, but had he done less, after the long hidden but lately developed Bardsley correspondence, he would have been false to himself and false to the commonwealth. He never takes steps backwards in his battles against public abuses, and the Auditor General and State Treasurer must know that they now have simply the choice between prompt resignation to save needless cost to an already robbed people, or to provoke more hideous exposures and be dismissed from office with multiplied dishonor.

An Able Editor Leaves.

On Tuesday noon Mr. John Youngman, who for the past five years so ably held the position of associate editor on the Democratic Watchman, called at our sanctum to grasp our hand and say "good-bye." He relinquished his position that morning and left on the afternoon train for Philadelphia where he will remain some time. He proposes to take a rest of several months before engaging elsewhere in editorial work.

Mr. Youngman was one of the ablest newspaper men in this section of the state. His editorial work always was of the highest order and would have graced the columns of any city paper. We are sorry to see Mr. Youngman leave.

GEN. LILLY, of Mauch Chunk, a bank president, was a witness before the legislative committee investigating the State treasury. He mentioned one man who went into the office with nothing and came out worth half a million. That is \$250,000 a year, and any fair minded man ought to be satisfied with two years and then retire to let in some other worth-nothing man.

The name of Pennsylvania is in bad repute at present.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

From Lancaster Intelligencer. Mr. Payne, nominated in Luzerne county, as a delegate to the proposed constitutional convention, declines the nomination because he does not think that the convention needs to be held. In so acting, Mr. Payne gives strong confirmation of his good sense. We are ready to admit that sensible men may honestly differ as to the need of a constitutional convention, although we ourselves consider it to be very unnecessary; but there should be no difference of opinion among those who oppose the constitutional convention as to the propriety of their refusing to be nominated as delegates to it.

Some very good men have been nominated as delegates to the convention, notwithstanding the probability of its meeting is not seemingly great, and some of these good men are themselves opposed to the meeting. Why they should permit themselves to be candidates for a place that they think should not be created, we think that they will find it hard to explain; as also, wherefore, they are running for a place that may never be created. Possibly it may be because they deem it an honorable post; and so it would be if it was a post; but when it is a post yet to be created it seems to be an honor of a disagreeably fruitless kind and one that a man of much calibre would not be greatly honored by.

We do not think that in all our experience of political follies we have ever known one greater than this constitutional convention folly. Neither party wants a constitutional convention to be held and the intelligence of the state is undoubtedly against it for sound reasons. Yet both parties have been forced to commit themselves to it because of a floating fragment of one-ideal people who want it, and because of a lot of other people who think there is capital in it for them. The men who think that a numbered ballot is the state's greatest woe, and the Labor leaders who think they see a panacea in a constitutional convention, howled aloud for it; and both political conventions dropped at the noise.

We had a constitutional convention, not yet twenty years ago, which adopted a constitution that is not yet enforced. Some people want a convention to enforce the constitution, though they know that all they need to do is to elect a Legislature that will do it.

Some folks demand a new constitution because the old one commands the ballots to be numbered; a provision which met the unanimous approval of the convention that made it and that has worked finely in practice ever since; correcting the great evils previously suffered because of the inability to identify a ballot with the voter; so that it came to pass that the ballot boxes were freely stuffed with ballots that were not cast by voters. This is no longer done to any extent. The frauds in the ballot box are not often committed by stuffing it; and when it is done the guilty are readily detected and punished.

The numbered ballot is a very desirable feature in our voting; and if we cannot have the Australian system of voting with it, we are not sure that we would have it. Secrecy of the ballot is very important in our present state of civilization; but so also is the ability of the law to identify a vote with the voter. The politician and the employer should not know how a voter votes; but the law should reserve the means of knowing how a voter has voted.

The resolution of the Democratic state convention upon this constitutional convention matter is of such wording as to enable us to read it as really against the convention, since it declares for the convention to amend the election law "only;" and as it is not disputed that the convention, if assembled, may do what it pleases to do in the matter of constitution tinkering, we reasonably conclude that the Democratic party does not demand its assembly; and we are very sure that we do not.

Duties of Supervisors.

A case was tried this week before Judge Krebs, at Clearfield, in which John Glaub brought suit against the road supervisors of Goshen township for damages, for injuries received by the plaintiff driving over an embankment. The court in charging the jury said that the plea of poverty by the supervisors should not be considered as they had the privilege of appealing to the county commissioners for assistance in maintaining proper roadways if they felt burdened by taxation in that direction. The jury awarded the plaintiff a thousand dollars damages.

Lard applied at once will remove the discoloration of a bruise.

ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT.

Between L. A. Schaeffer and J. M. Dale, both Chairmen of Committees.

It is agreed by and between L. A. Schaeffer, Chairman of the Democratic County Committee of the County of Centre, and John M. Dale, Chairman of the Republican County Committee of the County of Centre, as follows to wit: First. The respective County Committees agree that no poll tax shall be paid by them during the present year to enable delinquent tax-payers to vote on the day of the next election on the third day of November, 1891.

Second. It is also agreed that the county committees shall pay for no railroad tickets to enable absent voters of either party to go to their respective homes for the purpose of voting on election day; but, in case such absent voters furnish to the county committees sufficient money to purchase a ticket for themselves at the reduced rate granted by the railroad company to the respective committees, then and in that event the tickets will be purchased and sent to the voters by the county committees.

It is also further understood and agreed that this agreement is to bind not only the chairman of the respective county committees, but also all members of their committees; and all voters of both parties are also earnestly requested to abide by its terms.

Witness our hands this 24th day of September, 1891. L. A. SCHAEFFER, Chairman Dem. Co. Com. JOHN M. DALE, Chairman Rep. Co. Com.

Constitutional Conference.

The Constitutional Conference for the 34th Senatorial District met in the court house, (Judge's room,) Lock Haven, on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 2 p. m. The Conference was organized by electing Hon. John A. Woodward, of Centre, President and Hon. J. U. Shaffer, of the Renovo Record, Secretary.

W. H. Clough, Esq., Lock Haven; W. D. Bigler, Esq., Clearfield, and Ellis L. Orvis, Esq., were placed in nomination. W. D. Bigler, Esq., and Ellis L. Orvis, Esq., were elected on the first ballot and their nominations were made unanimous. The best of feeling prevailed all 'round. The conferees from Clearfield county speak in the highest terms of Mr. Clough, who happened to be the unfortunate candidate.

Centre county was represented in the Conference by Hon. J. H. Holt and Wm. H. Singer. Clinton's representatives were Hons. S. Woods Caldwell, J. U. Schaffer and Frank Geary and Clearfield was represented by A. B. Reed, W. C. Pentz and C. C. Dickinson.

The 34th Senatorial District has nominated the right men, men in whom the whole district has implicit confidence.

Unfair Assessments.

During the past week numerous parties, property owners, realizing that this journal always was a fearless advocate for denouncing public wrongs, called upon us to urge the publication of the assessor's list of Bellefonte. The object of this would be to show the injustices in that department, by which some of our moneyed men manage to have their valuations reduced so as to escape their proper share of the taxes. Several instances were cited, which if correct, are direct impositions as some who are most able to pay taxes, escape by collusion with the assessor or other public officials. It is probable that we will give some figures on this point later on. There is too much conniving and underhand work carried on in this boro's management. There are certain ones in office who should be fired.

Judge Bucher Moved to Years.

Judge Bucher, of Lewisburg, was moved to tears last Saturday while upon the bench when Alfred Hayes, at the close of the September term of the Union county court, read an address signed by both the democratic and republican members of the bar. The address pays high tribute to the ability, impartiality, fairness and faithfulness of Judge Bucher's administration in the courts of Union, Snyder and Mifflin counties during the past twenty years and hopes that the people of the twentieth judicial district will continue him on the bench for another term.

Huns and Poles Can't Vote.

"Do you know anything about the Constitution?" asked Judge Rockfeller of each one of 300 Huns and Poles who appeared to be naturalized at Shamokin, Pa., on Saturday evening. Thirty of them did, and were naturalized. The other 270 were sent home to the study of civil government in a Republic. They were indignant.

—Read the Centre Democrat.

EXTRA SESSION CALLED

Pennsylvania's Senate to Inquire Into Grave Charges.

TWO OFFICERS INVOLVED

To Satisfy the Public Mind a Searching Investigation Is to Be Had—Removal of Officials to Follow if the Suspicions Are Proved True.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 28.—Governor Pattison has issued a proclamation calling an extra session of the senate on Oct. 13 to investigate the scandal arising out of the arrest of John Bardsley, under the sector of the constitution providing for the removal of certain elective officers on the address of two-thirds of the senate. The governor gives the following reasons for his action:

Grave charges have been preferred involving the auditor general and state treasurer and most seriously reflecting upon the manner in which their official duties have been performed. It is proper that diligent inquiry should be made to ascertain whether or not reasonable cause does exist for their removal. There is in the public mind a profound conviction that the officials referred to and some of their subordinates have been grossly inefficient, shamefully negligent and entirely wanting in fidelity.

Dishonesty Suspected.

It is the prevailing opinion that some of the officials connected with these officers have been guilty of absolute faithlessness and downright dishonesty in violation of their oaths of office and of the original laws of the commonwealth. If any one of the charges made should be established, appropriate action looking to the removal of the officers involved should be taken by the senate as a duty to the people of the state, whose good name has been dishonored and whose money has been stolen, squandered or lost. John Bardsley, late treasurer of the city of Philadelphia, is now a convict for the embezzlement of public money, a large portion of which would have been in the state treasury long prior to the exposure of his actions had those charged with the administration of the duties of auditor general and state treasurer performed them with due fidelity. Bardsley's stubborn refusal to disclose any information whatever as to the conduct of these officials has compelled the abandonment of proposed criminal prosecution, at least for a time.

Removals May Follow. A proper inquiry by the senate may develop evidence sufficient to satisfy its members that reasonable cause exists for the removal of the auditor general and state treasurer.

The governor proposes to have the attorney general at future meetings of the treasury investigating committee. Auditor General McCament said that politics had much to do with the governor's course.

Gov. Pattison is equal to the emergency—when he issued his proclamation last Friday for the State Senate to convene to investigate the charges against Auditor General McCament and State Treasurer Boyer he did only what was his sworn duty. The great theft of the public funds should be thoroughly investigated and if these officials are found guilty of complicity with John Bardsley, their impeachment and swift punishment should follow. We are proud of Gov. Pattison's action in this matter, only we are sorry that a republican Senate will be called upon to conduct the investigation which, for political considerations, may attempt to cover up the short comings of these two officials.

From Nebraska.

Mr. H. A. Larimer and wife, of Lincoln, Nebraska, are visiting friends in this section at present. Mr. Larimer formerly was a merchant at Centre Hill, Pa., but left this county in 1876 for Nebraska where he took up land and has lived since. He has done exceedingly well in that country as he now has a small fortune accumulated and has retired from active work. His family is grown up and all of them are prosperous. Mr. Larimer is very enthusiastic over the possibilities offered for young men in that country and believes in Greely's advice: "Go west, young man."

A Relic of War Times.

John Shannon, a veteran of the late war, while looking over his war relics came across one of the 'dog collars,' as the soldiers called them, and which at the beginning of the war the men were compelled to wear around their necks when on dress parade. The "dog collar" is a strip of leather about three inches wide and long enough to go around a man's neck, with a buckle on one end. Before going on dress parade every man had to buckle the leather strap around his neck, for the purpose of keeping his head erect. After several months service the men threw the leather collars away and refused to wear them.—Lock Haven Express.

—If you want to buy a fine parlor ornament, visit Naginey's furniture rooms on Bishop street.

OCTOBER WEATHER.

October will open with high temperatures in all parts, except, perhaps, northwestern regions, or sections already passed by storm developments which will be in progress at the beginning of the month. It will be safe to anticipate in all prudent ways violent activity of the elements within 36 hours, before and after, of 6 p. m. on the 2nd. The fall of temperature will be sudden and extreme. The equinox of Venus is central on the 7th, in connection with reactionary disturbances beginning on the 6th. Another wave of warm, equatorial air, resulting in sharp, electrical storms, will express itself on these dates, and be followed promptly by another cold wave. Watch for them.

From about the 10th to 13th, inclusive, the outlook for autumnal storms calls for watchfulness. A polar blast, attended by some snow to the north, and followed by frost and freezing may be expected. About the 17th and 18th will bring the regular rise in temperature, the temperature and the storms being excited toward extremes by the prevailing Venus disturbance. Sudden transitions from warm to cold will be the order.

All that we have said concerning the above period will apply forcibly to the period running from 22d to 25th. The equinox of Mercury is central on the 23d, with Venus not entirely away from her disturbing node, and full moon on the 24th. Let us count, say the 23d, 24th and 25th central danger days, and see how far we miss it. Rain storms will turn to sleet and snow in northern extremes of sea and land. There will be violent autumnal gales, and a sweeping cold wave will wind up the whole. And bring in polar, frosty weather until the reactionary movements about the 29th and 30th.

We repeat our oft-expressed belief that the approaching winter will be one of increased severity. Look to your food, fuel and shelter for self and stock.

Burned to Death.

One of the most dreadful accidents that ever happened in Philadelphia transpired on last Wednesday forenoon on Second street. Paul, a little son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ammerman, obtained some matches without his mamma's knowledge, and going into an alley near his home climbed into a buggy and built a fire. His clothing ignited, and before aid could reach him he was all afire. Mrs. Homer Sankey heard the child's screams and looking out of the window saw the little fellow wrapped in flames and smoke. She ran to him calling for help. The little boy's mother and Mrs. McClellan heard the alarm and ran also. Mrs. Ammerman snatched the child from the buggy, but was so agonized and terrified that she was powerless, and before Mrs. Sankey and Mrs. McClellan could tear the clothes from the little boy he was burned to a crisp from his face to his knees. He lingered in awful agony until 3:30 Thursday morning and died in convulsions. The little boy was a very bright, lovable child, aged 4 years, 6 months and 9 days.

Shot Through the Foot.

Ernest Eddy, son of Ira C. Eddy, of Lamar, was shot through the left foot on Saturday afternoon last, by the accidental discharge of a target rifle. He had gone to the woods in search of game and was about to step from his buggy when his rifle was discharged accidentally. The ball was of 22 calibre and entered at the top of his boot, near the instep, going clear through and lodging in his shoe sole.

Bank Failure.

A rumor was current on our streets on Wednesday evening to the effect that the Clearfield National bank had failed that day. Noting definite could be learned of the matter as we went to press. This bank was considered one of the safest in central Pennsylvania.

—The Business Men's Jubilee, to be held in the opera house this evening, promises to be a grand affair. Many handsome costumes, representing the different business interests of town, will appear, and marching and music will be another pleasant feature. Everybody should patronize it, as it will be worth the money and for the benefit of a good cause.

—On Friday evening, October 2nd, the Hebrew New Year 5,652 begins, and the same will be observed by all persons of that faith. The Orthodox Hebrews keep two days as holidays. At this place the stores will be closed from 6 p. m. Friday to the same hour on Saturday.