

# The Centre Democrat.



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NO. 8

## The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - EDITOR

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## STROHM ANSWERED.

### THE TRUTH TOLD BY THE DEMOCRATIC COM.

A Letter from Adams and Goodhart that Explains the Situation—The Contract for the Shelves Clear and Distinct.

To the Citizens of Centre Co.:

In the explanatory (?) letter, published in last issue of the *Keystone Gazette* and signed by a member of the Board of Commissioners, we find the facts considerably distorted and ourselves unjustly misrepresented. The tone of the letter apparently attempts to show the "usurpation of power," as practiced by the Democratic members of this board, rather than to justify the stand taken by our esteemed colleague with reference to the classification of our annual statement.

During the one year in which we have been associated in the affairs of this office harmony has existed, and we have tried to show to our colleague the courtesy and consideration which is due to a minority of any board; and in justice to Mr. Strohm we wish to say that we have found in him a most agreeable and reasonable gentleman, with the one exception in question.

In other business matters during the year, when it became necessary to take a ballot, if it were not unanimous, the member, no matter who it chanced to be who stood alone in his views, was expected to accept the situation as becomes a man and yield to the majority of the board—reserving, of course, the right to have his vote recorded on the minutes as he should dictate. The idea that the majority could legally publish the statement, when the minority member refuses to sign it, is ridiculous. Mr. Strohm's protest contained only a partial statement of the facts, and could we have added before the facts complete and an explanation of the matter in full the privilege of publication would have been granted Mr. Strohm; but we will leave to every sensible reader of this article the propriety of taking up the space on the annual statement with the arguments pro and con of this board.

We desire to call attention briefly to the main facts of the matter to which our colleague took exceptions: In the article of agreement made October 7th, 1891, first: The Office Specialty Mfg. Co. agrees to furnish files and fixtures for the vaults of the commissioners and prothonotary's offices, deliver and put up the same in the vaults, the fixtures for commissioners' vault to be ready to put up by the month of December, 1891, and the fixtures for the prothonotary's vault shall be put up in February, 1892. Second: The county commissioners agree to pay to the Office Specialty Mfg. Co. the contract price on November 1st, 1892, "provided the work meets the approval of the commissioners when set up." The above embodies the main part of the article of agreement which is on file in this office and open to the perusal of those in doubt as to who has quoted correctly. The reader will see that the fixtures for the prothonotary's vault, which is more than one half of the entire order, shall not be put up until the month of February, 1892. Further, at the time our statement was published, none of the boxes containing the fixtures were opened. Upon the comparison made in Mr. Strohm's letter between a note given for value received and an article of agreement, the conditions of which have not been completed, we will respectfully ask business men to form their own opinion. The item above referred to is not left out of the statement as his article would have you believe, but is placed where we believe it rightfully belongs, as an estimated liability for the year 1892, and for which we will make provision in our tax levy of this year.

With reference to the vilification and abuse which Mr. Fiedler and other unscrupulous party leaders heaped upon the Democratic members of the board, in last week's issue of the *Gazette*, simply because we "dare to be Democrats," instead of Republicans, and because our record for the first year in office presents so marked a contrast to the one left by three years of Republican management. We have nothing to say further than to respectfully refer the public to our annual statement which we consider complete and correct and in every portion of which Mr. Strohm concurred with the exception of placing an item in one account instead of another.

In conclusion we sincerely regret that our colleagues' good sense and judgment could not hold its own when brought in contact with the advice of unscrupulous political advisers.

G. L. GOODHART,  
T. F. ADAMS.

### A STRIKING CONTRAST.

The Work of the Former Republican and Present Democratic Board Contrasted.

For three weeks before it came, the *Gazette* had been threatening that it was going to raze the democratic members of the present board of commissioners from tooth to toe-nail. The razing has come, and while for quality it exceeds all former efforts of the post master, the commissioners are not hurt and when last seen had their teeth, and said their toe-nails were still on.

But while they are at it they should tell the truth; but because they can not do so, we will.

The county auditors in their report filed February 3, 1892, say, "We find from the books and accounts in the commissioners office, that the total expenditures of the county for the year ending January 1, 1892, was \$61,337.37, which includes \$11,379.89 of loans paid, and \$13,265.47 of accounts of former years paid during 1891." The statement published by the county commissioners shows the same thing. Samuel T. Gray, the republican auditor, certifies to the correctness of the auditor's report, and Mr. Strohm "concurs" in the latter as correct.

If Mr. Strohm had desired to be honest with himself and fair to the people as well as gentlemanly toward his colleagues on the board, he would have given the same reasons to the public for not signing the annual financial statement that he gave to the board and asked to have put on the statement.

On February 3, 1892, Mr. Strohm said: "I concur in the foregoing report, except in the statement of liabilities, which in my judgment should contain the item of \$4,500 of contracted indebtedness for metal vault furniture as per contract dated October 7, 1891." This debt, although not payable until November 1, 1892, is in my judgment as much a liability as the notes for \$8,000 held by the Centre Co. Banking Co. and the other notes enumerated among the liabilities, and which fall due at stated dates in 1892."

This little note contains Mr. Strohm's objection to the statement. Every thing else in it he "concurs" in as being absolutely correct. This being so and the same statements being certified to by Mr. Gray, it is absolutely certain that the financial statement of receipts and expenditures for 1891, as published, is correct.

But since this thing has been started there are a few things the public should know.

The annual statement for 1890, which shows the receipts and expenditures of the last year of the republican board, and which is certified to by Mr. Strohm as correct, shows that there was on hand funds due the townships, arising from unseated lands amounting to \$20,430.62 and of this amount the republican board had used for county purposes \$7,633.09. On this vast amount of money Treasurer Goss demanded, and with the help of Strohm, succeeded in getting the auditors at the settlement in 1891, to allow him commissions, which amounted to \$1,279.43, on moneys which he had not disbursed. It was a clear and clean swindle, for all this money had to be paid out by Mr. Gramley. Beside this the amount of \$7,633.07, had to be raised by the present board at once, to pay the districts as they demanded their money.

Every decent citizen ought to be ashamed of the manner in which the late republican board managed the finances of the county. Indeed, we presume all decent citizens are heartily ashamed of the record made by the last board, while those who undertake to defend any of these transactions do not belong to that class of citizens.

If the county could be run on a two mill tax why did the late republican board not run it on a two mill rate? They tried it, and because they found themselves short they used \$7,663.07 of funds needed by the townships to run their schools, make their roads and support their poor, and \$8,358.35 of money due to the state authorities not later than August 1, 1890. The use of these funds by the old board shows how absolutely impossible it was to run the county on a two mill tax.

But it is alleged that they had extraordinary expenses. The flood occurred in June, 1889; Hopkins was tried and sentenced at November court, 1889, and Andrews was tried at January court, 1890. All this occurred before the tax levy of 1890. The then board of commissioners knew exactly what they would have to meet, and had they been honest with themselves or the people, they would have levied a sufficient millage to meet the expenses of the county, and not robbed the school, poor, road and state funds to meet the just obligation of the county.

But the present board committed one

more great offence, and just how it is to be condoned bothers us. Rev. Fleck, ex-commissioner J. C. Henderson's son-in-law, who lives in Bedford, Bedford county, writes the *Gazette* that he received no annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of this county. Poor Fleck! born and brought up in Blair county, through his marriage to a Centre county girl, even though he lives in Bedford, is so much interested in our finances that he bemoans the fact that he received no statement. Poor Fleck! Financial statements of receipts and expenditures are for the people of the county. The commissioners did right to only supply the papers with supplements for their circulation in the county and no more.

Come off the band-wagon, Fiedler, and crawl up on the monkey cage, where you belong.

### MAKE RAW MATERIAL FREE.

The *New York Times* objects, with great force of argument, to two of the special tariff bills agreed upon by the Committee on Ways and Means. The bills to put cotton ties and binder twine on the free list and their justification in the fact that the duties on these articles are in effect taxes upon exports. They increase the cost of putting cotton and grain on the market, and to the extent of that increase diminish the profit of the farmer. The tax on binder twine, the raw material of which is already on the free list, is only seven-tenths of a cent per pound. This trifling duty was put in the McKinley act in the hope of propitiating the farmer in a small way, while robbing him in a large way. The proposed repeal is dictated by a similar spirit of buncombe. It would be right enough to repeal the duty on cotton ties, but in doing justice thereby to the Southern farmer justice should also be done to the cotton tie manufacturers. It would be going wrong end first to repeal the duty on the manufactured product while retaining the duty on the raw material. The foreign manufacturer of cotton ties, who has no McKinley legislation to contend with, gets his raw material free. As a matter of entire justice to both the makers and the users of cotton ties, the repeal of the duties on iron ore and coal should go with the repeal of the duty on cotton ties: In considering the preponderating interest of the farmers, Congress should do no injustice to the manufacturers, who need free raw material as much as consumers need free goods.

HENRY WATERSON in his Louisville *Courier Journal* says: Mr. Harrison will be his own successor upon the National Republican ticket, and if there are those who think he will prove a weak nominee or a candidate easy to be beaten, they will find themselves mistaken.

That Mr. Cleveland is, outside of the state of New York, the choice of an overwhelming majority of the Democrats of the United States is an indisputable fact. It is Cleveland first, the rest nowhere. But to all appearance it seems with the Democrats of New York it is Hill first and Cleveland nowhere.

Are we again going to fall between the two stools of this old, never-ending faction fight; this eternal, incurable seven year itch renewing itself every four years among the Democratic politicians of the state of New York?

### Quay to be Defeated.

An organization known as the Pennsylvania Republican Committee, with headquarters at 603, Walnut street, Philadelphia, are perfecting arrangements to defeat Quay for re-election to the United States Senate.

It is the hope and wish of all good citizens that the Keystone State be no longer represented in the U. S. Senate by political tricksters.

ONE of the strange features in the politics of these times is the Republican opposition to the attempt made by a Democratic congress to furnish the people with cheap clothing. A tariff policy based upon the laws of the Chinese is responsible for the remarkable position taken by the Republicans.

It is reported that President Harrison has said that he wants no office holders or negroes sent as delegates to the national convention. We doubt this story. It lacks the Harrisonian flavor. The rule of life in the Harrison family is to take anything they can get, without exception as to race, color or position.

FROM the bold stand taken by our friend James B. Strohm, he certainly should be sure of the re-nomination from his party; it was a great political move—Alexandrian-like in conception and Napoleon like in execution. It startled the populace—in his mind.

## WILL THEY RESIGN?

### WILL THE GAZETTE ENFORCE ITS DEMAND?

An Open Appeal in Behalf of the Democrats of Centre county for Commissioners Adams and Goodhart to Remain at the Helm—Let the Good Work Continue and the Band Play.

To Geo. L. Goodhart and T. Frank Adams Democratic members of the Board of County Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—We have observed in the last issue of the *Gazette* (a paper sincerely devoted to the morals of the world in general and to the official conduct of the servants of the people in particular) a scathing arraignment of the manner in which you have approached the discharge of the important trust committed to you by a confiding populace in November 1890.

It is impossible to convey to you the heartfelt sympathy we are sure you sorely crave at our hands in this the hour of your peril and humiliation. To be the object of the slightest suspicion is of itself sufficient to disturb your wonted equanimity, but to have the charge and accusation emanate from a journal whose reputation for veracity and integrity, to say nothing of its claims to morality, is so firmly established as to have become a household word (?) must surely have brought you to the very brink of despair.

We have zealously watched your career hitherto and were congratulating ourselves that we had again succeeded in elevating to office men who had some redeeming characteristics, some appreciation for the obligation cast upon them as the custodians of public property, when all our fondest dreams were ruthlessly dashed to pieces by this startling narration of extravagance, incompetence and flagrant mismanagement.

To whom shall we vote the prize for this unselfish laying bare of this whitened sepulchre of political jobbery? Whose brow shall wear the signet of patriotic devotion to the public weal? Surely we have not heretofore adequately appreciated the conscientious, non-partisan minority member of your board; but now all things are changed, and the silent, undemonstrative gentleman becomes a giant in overturning this hot bed of political chicanery (?) Through the columns of the champion of virtue (?) and synonym for that which deviateeth not from the truth (?) he has with unrequited devotion rendered an incalculable service to the people of Centre county; and we are almost persuaded to join him his request for your resignation.

But we have a lingering hope that there may have been some mistake and that the rumblings and murmurings that seem to have reached the ears of this devoted public servant and his unerring mouthpiece were as greatly misunderstood and as widely misinterpreted as the sounds and warnings of the political avalanche of 1890, that engulfed and swept the Republican party in Centre county from power. There is a lurking suspicion that the sensible people of the county have correctly taken the measure of that sheet and its self sacrificing contributors and, fearing you might unadvisedly grant their request, we feel it incumbent upon us to urge you not to resign. Should you resign now the court, as it is at present constituted, might not adopt the suggestion of the *Gazette* and appoint two good competent democrats to take charge of the important affairs of your office which the taxpayers of Centre county (in no uncertain tone) indicated in 1890 should be managed by the party to which you belong.

Had they cause to ask that a change be made perhaps not. On January 1st 1888 a Republican Board, by their own statement, found a balance in favor of the county of only, \$24,098.83, a little nest egg as it were, and on Jan. 1st 1891 turned over to you a balance against the county of \$5267.63, to pay—with what?—nothing. If you had even a State tax fund or an unseated land fund to draw upon we could understand how you might have worried through at least one year on a two mill-tax, but then you hadn't, and we have been informed that you were not only deprived of that source of revenue, but, this year statement also shows that your predecessors in office left one small bill of \$7663.09 which had been stolen from the township's road, school and poor funds; also an item of \$1,356.46 of state tax of 1889, requiring you to pay in addition \$35.39 interest, and \$67.82 collection fee to the Atty. General on account of the delay, and \$7,901.89 State tax of 1890—making a total of \$16,124.65 misappropriated by them, and used to pay county orders; and also other unsettled bills of former years which you had to pay to the amt of \$4,805.87—making in all a grand total

of \$20,928.52, for which you were to make provision. And although your additional tax of one mill, amounted to \$11,500, it would not pay the former Republican board's monstrous indebtedness of \$20,928.52 by \$9,428.52, you have given us an administration, clean and pure, with a balance in the treasury of \$951.66 in favor of the tax payers of Centre county. For these and other reasons we feel that you owe it to your party and all good citizens not to resign, at least, NOT JUST YET. In the meantime we shall labor with your accusers to temper their outraged feelings and prevail upon them to modify the terms that now appear to be so heartless, and the *Gazette* may upon due reflection change its mind and withdraw its imperious demands, for you to resign.

Once more we beg of you not to resign and save us from the calamity of having to endure the wicked, cruel tortures that must surely be in store for those who with glad hearts rejoice that Centre county is once again enabled to present a statement showing a balance in favor of the taxpayers. Again we say to you: Do not resign—JUST YET.

A mountain labored, Mr. Strohm, and brought forth a mouse.

PORTIONS of the country districts in western Pennsylvania have been flooded lately with delusive circulars from New York green goods men. The letters are confidential and unfold a bright future for the man who will avail himself of the opportunity to gain wealth at comparatively a small cost. The intended victim is cautioned not to write but to telegraph when he will come on to purchase the green goods and a meeting place at some point within fifty miles of the city will be arranged. Centre county people who received these circulars should have nothing whatever to do with them.

AFTER months of expensive investigation the people of Philadelphia are still unable to find out where the money went that Treasurer Bardsley was sent to prison for stealing. The exact truth in regard to that matter might, if made known, be as troublesome to the National Banking system as to certain high-toned politicians and campaign fund handlers. We hope that the Congressional Committee now investigating the subject will be able to find something tangible, so that the public may know where their taxes went.

Your printing steals are all gone, Fiedler, all gone.

### The Coal Trust and its Victims.

[N. Y. World Editorial, Feb. 18th, 1892.]

Are the people of the State of Pennsylvania in earnest in supporting the great coal trust because they think that the people of New York will be the chief sufferers?

It is true that nearly all the people of New York will suffer from this conspiracy to raise the price of fuel. It is true that the beneficiary of the conspiracy will be the great Pennsylvania corporation that has monopolized the coal properties of the State. But it is also true that the coal consumers of Pennsylvania will suffer from the tyranny of the trust.

It is the Pennsylvania idea, however, that capitalists and corporations, especially of the State, are of the first importance, and that consumers are persons who ought willingly and cheerfully to contribute to the enrichment of the special favorites of eleemosynary laws. From the most conspicuous to the humblest citizen a great majority of Pennsylvanians assume this attitude. But when they say that New York will suffer and Pennsylvania will prosper they forget that New York in this instance stands for all consumers of coal wherever they may dwell.

There are some people in Pennsylvania who have heretofore made many and successful fights against similar conspiracies. Fortunately one of these is Governor and another is Attorney-General of the State. Governor Pattison once took the initiative for the people, and it is to be hoped that he will not falter now. The idea that the State cannot interfere for the righting of a private wrong does not apply in this case. This combination is an assault upon the people, and the duty of the Governor is to protect both the people of his own State and those of other States who are assailed by lawless conspiracies existing in Pennsylvania.

As the York (Pa.) *Gazette* says: "There are some things about which a conscientious magistrate has no personal choice." The enforcing of obedience to the Constitution of the State is one of them.—(Published by request.)

—Selling my entire stock at and below cost—Simon Loeb.

## Editorial.

### Reform at once, Fiedler, reform!

It appears to be a certainty that Harrison will be renominated by his party.

Come off the band-wagon, Strohm, you don't play a horn and you are liable to scratch the paint.

GOODHART and Adams are not in the resigning mood and will continue in business at the court house for some time to come, at the same old stand.

JIM FIEDLER has his *Lottery Sheet (Gazette)* filled with italic squibs of the following style: "Resign, Goodhart and Adam resign!" in reply it is appropriate to say: Stop your lying, Fiedler, stop!

MUCH hostility has developed among the Republicans of Pennsylvania toward Senator Quay because of his unfriendliness to the Force bill in the Fifty-first Congress. Senator Quay never rendered the Republican party nor the country a greater service than in contributing to the defeat of that dangerous partisan measure.

At the Democratic State convention of New York, on Monday, in Albany, resolutions were adopted endorsing Senator David B. Hill for President. It was a Hill convention from beginning to the end and the Cleveland people were left out in the cold. Another State convention has been called for to meet at Syracuse on May 31 and they will adopt resolutions endorsing Cleveland. This factional fight in New York State is a great mistake, and will tend to create discord in an important and doubtful State. The result of this family quarrel will be that the Democratic party will discard both Hill and Cleveland and take up some man from another State. We must carry New York this year and we doubt the advisability of taking either of the aspiring candidates, Cleveland or Hill, from the Empire State for the Democratic standard bearer.

THE deal by which the Reading railroad obtained control of the New Jersey Central, and Lehigh Valley system is considered a bold move of railroad financing and the result will be to give the entire control of the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania in the hands of this corporation. The result of this deal has been to almost double the market price of Reading stock and it is being eagerly sought after. Many claim the consolidation is a violation of the constitution of the state for competing lines to be purchased and become the property of the same person or corporation. Some papers are clamoring for Gov. Pattison to interfere. What the result will be remains for the future. The various expressions of the city dailies are so different as to assure the reader that they are the hirelings of either the Reading or Pennsylvania systems.

Don't monkey with the Democratic buzz-saw, Mr. Strohm, don't do it.