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## BELLEFONTE BORO. DEM. NOMINEES

An Exceptionally Strong Ticket in  
the Field.

### THEY ARE ALL YOUNG MEN

Well Known in this Community and are exceptionally well qualified—Brief biographical sketches of each—Who they are—Why they deserve your support.

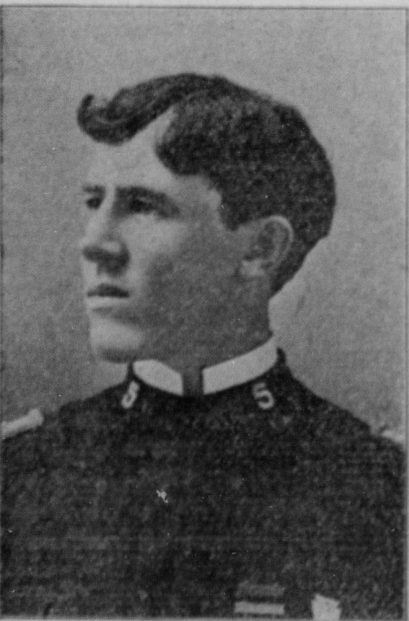
On next Tuesday, February 16th, the regular spring election will be held, and it will be for local offices; for the selection of men to regulate home affairs and for that reason is of much importance, probably more than state and national affairs. Good officers, and economy, in local affairs directly affects the interests of all citizens and taxpayers.

While the democracy is in the minority in Bellefonte boro., they always put forth their best efforts and nominate the best men possible for their local tickets, and this year is no exception to the custom, as the following will show:



For Burgess—F. E. NAGINEY.

The above is an excellent likeness of one of Bellefonte's popular young men, F. E. Naginey, the Allegheny street furniture dealer and funeral director. Mr. Naginey was born at Milroy, Pa., July 30, 1865. His early life was spent at home. He attended the public schools in that vicinity and spent two years in the Indiana, Pa., Normal and one year at Bloomsburg Normal. After that he taught school for three terms, was a traveling salesman for several years and in Jan. 1888 came to Bellefonte and engaged in the furniture business, as a partner of the firm of Camp & Naginey of which he finally became proprietor, and has continued very successfully to this time. Mr. Naginey is a member of the order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Golden Eagle and the Heptasophis, in all of which he takes an active part. Of a pleasant and genial disposition he has many warm personal friends in town. He is extremely practical, thoroughly reliable, unquestioned in his integrity, firm and positive in his convictions, all of which are so desirable and necessary for the position he has, been nominated that we believe his election is sure to follow.

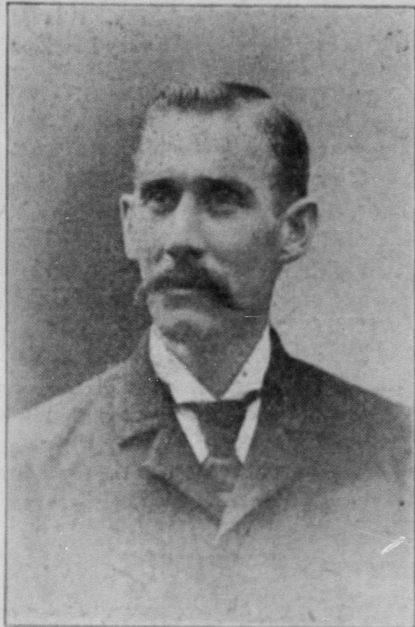


For Tax Collector—HUGH S. TAYLOR.

The subject of this sketch is one of Bellefonte's prominent young men, who is well known and highly esteemed—Hugh Stewart Taylor. He was born in Bellefonte, January 12, 1868. In 1886 was graduated from the Bellefonte High school. Spent two years, from 1890-92 at Penna. State College, entered the law offices of Orris Bower & Orris at once as a law student and in 1894 was admitted to the practice of law. In February 1894 Mr. Taylor was elected Tax Collector, in this borough, overcoming a large republican party vote. In 1895 he was elected superintendent of the Bellefonte Steam Heat and Gas works which he has very successfully directed since. Mr. Taylor was selected as Chairman of Centre county democracy on account of his ability. In military

life Mr. Taylor has always taken an active part and at present is Captain of Company B, 5th Regiment, N. G. P., at this place. In addition, he is a prominent member of the Logan fire company, Odd Fellows, Knights of the Golden Eagle. Mr. Taylor is strictly a self-made young man who has forged his way to the front by virtue of his indomitable energy and perseverance. He is pluck and ambition, and will succeed.

Mr. Taylor has made an exceptionally good tax collector. His work has been very satisfactory and we know that most of the taxpayers will want him retained, because he is a good man for this important place.



Overseer of Poor—JOHN TRAFFORD.

This is an office that is hard to fill, and one about which many scandals and jobs always lurk. To have a suitable man for this place, means much for our people. The abuses of past years need not be recalled. John Trafford, the nominee, was born in Castlein, York county, Pa., and came to this county in 1880, having secured employment in the Bellefonte glass works. During the past eight years he has been employed by McCalmont & Co., as fireman at their works and has proven faithful, reliable, efficient. Mr. Trafford was twice elected, Chief of the Logan fire company. He is a man of his own mind, not swayed by others in the discharge of his duties. He has the ambition in him to make a good Overseer, and one who would wipe out the notorious practices and abuses in that department in past years. Elect him—see if he don't do it.



For Treasurer—J. WILL CONLEY.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 16, 1862 near Centre Hall and spent his early life on his father's, John Conley, farm. During this time he attended the Centre Hall public and normal schools until he was 20 years of age. He engaged as a traveling salesman for one year. He next engaged in civil engineering for three years, in the employ of the Penna. R. R., from 1883 to '87; was in the mercantile business one year at Milesburg. In 1887 Mr. Conley was married to Miss Anne, only daughter of Mr. John Meese, of this place, and since then has been assisting Mr. Meese in the well known mercantile business on Alleghenystreet, which is one of our foremost establishments.



For Borough Auditor—OSCAR WETZEL.  
Mr. Oscar Wetzel's name fittingly con-

(Continued on page 8.)

## COURT HOUSE SET AFIRE

An Attempt to Destroy The Temple of Justice.

### WAS DISCOVERED IN TIME.

The Prompt and Efficient Efforts of the Fire Departments save the Building from Destruction—Was the Work of an Incendiary—A Fiendish Deed.

On Monday morning, at about 2:30 o'clock, fire was discovered in the court house, and the alarm was soon sounded that aroused the inhabitants of the town. A bright light was seen in the rear of the court room and in a few minutes the flames were rising to the ceiling, in a threatening manner. Everybody started for the fire departments to assist in getting out the hose carts and apparatus. For about ten minutes the flames in the rear of the court room kept increasing and spreading until it looked as though the entire interior was aflame and doomed.

It was a short time indeed until the two fire companies, each had a line of hose connected and streams playing on the fire. The one stream was sent in from the outside window. Another stream was taken up the south side stairway and turned on the door, leading in the court room. In five minutes every spark was extinguished and the famous old building was saved from destruction.

The damage is not very great. The fire seems to have started at the landing on the second floor at the doors leading into the court room, on the south side. On the inside was a pair of swinging doors, and on the outside an ordinary heavy door that was securely locked. The distance was about six inches between the same, and the inside of the doors show that the fire burned longer between them than elsewhere, which indicates where it originated. The pair of swinging doors were almost burned away and the frame work and adjoining window sills were considerably charred. The interior of the room is considerably smoked and some plastering will likely have to be removed. The Prothonotary's office and the Register and Recorder's offices were soaked considerably and will require new papering. The damage to the building is slight, not more than two or three hundred dollars.

#### THE ORIGIN.

The origin of the fire is, without a doubt, that of an incendiary. Soon after the alarm was given the writer and Harry Jackson, deputy sheriff, were the first to enter the building. The rear hall door was found open. Going up the stairway to the burning doors, a spot, almost a foot in diameter, was seen, near the crevice, of some liquid, which no doubt was oil. The draft from the stairway drew the flames inside the room. The presumption is that oil was injected under the door and there the match was applied. The fire could have been burning there for probably a quarter of an hour before gaining enough headway to be discovered.

Another indication of incendiaryism is that the window, at the rear of the Treasurer's office, was raised, the lock or catch at the top was broken and a crease on the window sill showed the mark of a pry or bar used to force up the sash and gain an entrance. The exit was made, no doubt, by way of the rear hall door, which was standing open.

The county commissioners carry an insurance of \$30,000 on the building and \$3,000 on the furniture and fixtures.

The building had a narrow escape from destruction. A few minutes later and the flames would have eaten through the door frame and after getting in the wall would have reached the attic in an instant and nothing could have saved it.

Much credit is due our fire departments for the prompt response and effective work done. An efficient fire department has prevented three serious conflagrations of late. Their services are appreciated by the public, and especially on this occasion.

#### Too Much Quinine.

On account of a bad cold and upon the kindly advice of friends, Wm. H. Smith, an employe about the Central hotel at Philipsburg came to his death from taking too much of this remedy. He started taking quinine and whiskey on Sunday and Monday and the effect was that the drug soon made the man delirious and physicians could do little for him and he died from congestion of the brain. The quinine killed him and not the whiskey.

#### Wilson—McCoy.

On Thursday evening of last week Mr. Samuel W. McCoy, of Potters Mills, was married to Miss Merab Clara Randall at the residence of the bride's parents in Williamsport. A number of guests were present from a distance.

### OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Senator Tillman has got out his pitchfork again, and he is going to use it if the republicans try to throw out the electoral vote of South Carolina on the protest that is going to be made by Murray, the negro member of the House from that State, when the House and Senate meet this week in joint session to count the electoral votes. Senator Tillman said on the subject: If McKinley is going to be inaugurated on the 4th of March, the joint convention has got to count the vote of South Carolina. If the republican party wants to make an attack on the constitution of the state, it must make it on some other ground or in some other matter than by endeavoring to prevent the counting of her vote. I wish to go further and express my preference for seeing Mr. McKinley President rather than to see the Presidential function exercised by Secretary Olney, as it will be after the 4th of March, if the effort is made to deny South Carolina the right to vote." The following significant language was said by Representative McCall, of Mass., who is a republican and Chairman of this election committee which has charge of the contested election cases from South Carolina in this congress: "It is true, apparently, that the election laws and constitution of South Carolina disbar a large proportion of the population from voting, but it seems to be the illiterate ones who are disfranchised. There is a question in the minds of many intelligent men whether this is not a wise plan if constitutionally enforced and carried out according to law. A full generation has passed since the colored men were enfranchised, and I do not know how long they can expect us to coddle them and fight to secure their electoral rights, while they neglect to learn to read and write."

Nobody was surprised when the Senators who have been pushing the Nicaragua Canal bill decided to give up the fight. At no time during the present session has the bill had the slightest chance of getting through the House, even if passed by the Senate. It could have been passed by the Senate notwithstanding the protests of Nicaragua, but it could only have been done by a protracted fight which would have resulted in preventing action by the Senate upon other legislation.

Senator Daniel has made a point against the arbitration treaty which may result in arraying the silver senators solidly against its ratification. The point is that if the United States should adopt the free coinage of silver while that treaty was in force, England could put in a claim for the difference between the value of principal and interest of American debts held in England, under the new system of a double standard and under the present single gold standard, and if a majority of the arbitrators happened to be gold men would probably get a decision in favor of the claim.

Canada has sent two members of its ministry to Washington to offer liberal trade concessions in exchange for duties in the new tariff bill that will not shut out Canadian agricultural products, but it looks as though they would just as well have remained at home so far as accomplishing anything goes. The republicans have already agreed to a schedule of rates on agricultural products that raises the duties to such an extent that it will bar out Canadian products.

The Washing Post has been having fun with Secretary Morton. Its latest hit is too good to be overlooked. "The Post is under obligations to Hon. J. Sterling Morton for his most valuable report on 'Tape-Worms of Poultry.'" By the keen employment of that twin screw and double expansion logic for which the head of the Agricultural Department is so noted, the writer is able to show that this pest which is annoying to farmers and adding to their mortgages is due directly to the constant agitation of the financial question by irresponsible persons who do not agree with the present administration."

#### Incorrect Report.

On Monday an announcement appeared in one of our papers to the effect that Valentine's furnace had closed down for an indefinite period. This is not correct. That plant is in full operation and there is no intention or intimation that anything of the kind is contemplated. The blast was turned off on Sunday, for a short time, in order to clean some flues and that may have caused the rumor about closing the works.

#### A Lot of Shoats Frozen.

Ten large shoats, belonging to Luther Geiswhite, of Coburn, froze to death during Monday night's, 25th, cold weather. The shoats were in the pen, says the Journal.

—To cure a cough or cold, in one day, take Krumrine's Compound Syrup of Tar. If it fails to cure, money refunded.

## SELECTION OF SCHOOL TEACHERS

Abuses That Creep Into Our  
Public School System

### SOME VERY HEALTHY ADVICE

The Public Should be Careful in Selection of School Directors—There is too Much Favoritism and Scheming—Are Teachers Selected on Their Merit—The Public Must Remedy the Evil.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT:—The people of Bellefonte, and indeed every section of this county, have no more important office to fill at the election next week, than that of school director. The school law declares that neither politics, religion nor relationship should be considered in the selection of school teachers. We venture to say that in the face of this, there is scarcely a district in the county, in which there are not candidates for the office of school director, whose avowed purpose in seeking this office is to push the interest of some relative for the position of teacher, no matter what their qualifications may be.

The people always have it in their power to prevent this on the part of every candidate for school director by refusing, without any reference to party or politics, to support the men who are candidates avowedly on this purpose.

The bane, the curse we might say, of every school district in the county is the habit of school directors, in the interest of themselves or some relatives, in putting sons and daughters and relatives in as teachers. Of course, there are among these occasionally a good teacher, but as a rule teachers selected in this way are very young and inexperienced, and are retained only because of the relative on the board.

At the late meeting of the school directors association of Centre county, Prof. J. P. Jackson, a director from State College borough read a very able and interesting paper on the question "Are school teachers elected with a view of securing the best according to merit." In preparing the paper, Professor Jackson sent out about fifty letters to presidents of the schools and others interested in the subject, and asked them whether they considered that the teachers in their districts were elected with reference to merit. In reply he received many letters from which we quote, as showing the sentiment in many districts, and which also shows that as a rule relationship to a school director is the curse to many districts.

One says: "I find that very many teachers are not selected on their merits, but get their position as teacher through the influence of friends, even through they are morally and intellectually unfit to teach. Another said: "In many cases other influences are more prominent than merit, such as relationship poverty or the need of help to keep the family."

The answer of another was "As to the question, are school teachers selected with special reference to merit, I would say: No. Only in a few districts. The one great weakness of our public school system comes in here. Very many directors have daughters or nieces or other relatives, or special friends, whom they desire to have teach, and this often with out any reference as to their qualifications. The directors make it a personal matter and simply because they are on the board the other members vote for the directors relative. To particularize, in a certain district a man put himself forward and was elected with the sole idea in view of putting one of his children into the schools and so he succeeded. Although that teacher was of good material the necessary training was lacking."

"In another district in the county, a few years ago, every member of the board had a relative teaching, and some of these bits of girls 16 to 18 years of age. The people endured as long as they could, and much too long, for the good of the children, and then elected a board on the express issue that no relatives of members of the board were to be made teachers. I am aware that teachers must have a place to begin but before they get it they should have some practical training." So we might go on quoting from these answers. They are nearly all of the same tenor.

Another evil, is that in so many districts the board will only elect persons teaching from their own districts. This is especially a pernicious habit. It makes schools, school board and all, narrow and limited in their views. This is an evil that might be complained of as existing to some extent in Bellefonte. Where such habit does not exist the schools take high grade and the whole community is benefited accordingly.

Schools it should be remembered are established for the benefit of the children and not for the purpose of giving relatives

of directors places, or supporting the worthy poor.

We have said enough to cause our people to think. They know the candidates, especially in the South ward, and they know that Mr. Mingie is intelligent, capable, honest and that he has neither son nor daughter nor other relative to crowd upon the district. A. TEACHER.

### HELD THEM AT BAY.

Armed Desperadoes Terrorizing Snyder County Citizens.

Intense excitement prevails at Centerville Pa., Snyder county over the lawless action of a gang of five desperadoes armed to the teeth, who have been terrorizing this place and vicinity for the past week. The gang are entrenched in an old cabin at the foot of Jacks Mountain, in a wild section of the county, about one mile from there, and the people residing in this sparsely settled district are terrorstricken at this move. From their impromptu fort the desperadoes have been making sorties for the last few days and defy all efforts either to dislodge them or any effort on the part of the constables to arrest them.

On Wednesday evening four of the gang armed with Winchester and revolvers, came into Centerville, and proceeded to break up a party at Wildner's hotel. Boldly entering the parlor with rifles pointed, they forced three of the guests to give up their valuables, and then backed out of the door without an attempt being made to stop them. The ruffian's work did not end here, but going to the house of a man named Ziegler, they battered down his door and ransacked the house carrying off eatables and anything of value they could lay their hands on and made off, daring any one to stop them.

Yesterday a posse was organized by the citizens and tracked the gang to their lair, but the trail ended at the ends of five Winchester. The men refused to capitulate and retreated to the house. Both posse and gang exchanged shots, and one of the constables was shot in the thigh, and the posse returned to town.

Another effort was made but the gang are securely entrenched and are plentifully supplied with ammunition and the attempt was again successful. A determined effort will be made to arrest the gang and jail them.

### A Valuable Friendship.

Charles C. Gibson, a well known young gentleman of Williamsport, has been given \$30,000 under singular circumstances. About ten years ago Mr. Gibson spent some time at a sanitarium, Clifton Springs N. Y., and there met a Mr. Sibley, of Rochester. A warm friendship sprang up between them, and before leaving Mr. Sibley gave Gibson an envelope, at the same time telling him not to open it until after his (Sibley's) death. Sibley died about a month ago and Gibson opened the envelope and found in it a will bequeathing to him one third interest in an estate valued at \$150,000. A Rochester lawyer came to Williamsport to see Gibson and demanded the document, which the latter refused to give up. Gibson went to Rochester and the Sibley relative offered him \$30,000. Rather than have a contest Gibson accepted the offer.

### Death of "Jack" Newson.

John W. Newson, a former well known resident of Bellefonte, died at his home in Clearfield Friday morning. He was suffering from paralysis of the vocal chords of the throat. An operation was performed upon his throat a week ago Wednesday, but it failed to give relief and death came at the time stated above. Deceased was about 50 years of age, a widower, with no children. His wife, who died about a year ago, was Ella Foley, formerly of this place. Mr. Newson for many years conducted a restaurant in the building on the corner of Bishop and Allegheny streets. For four years he conducted the Syracuse House at Howard, Pa., and from there he went to Clearfield and engaged in the restaurant business, which business he was engaged in at the time of his death.

### Book Reception.

On Monday February 22nd the pupils of the Bellefonte High school will hold a book reception and literary entertainment in their building. The object is to have each person bring a book on that occasion and in that way help to build up their library. Accompanying each invitation was a printed list indicating what books were most desired. Our school library already has a splendid collection of choice literary works.

### Another Success.

The reproduction of Col. Weigle's famous play "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" was greeted by large houses each evening. Although the play was given here last spring many people came a second and even a third night. The proceeds of the four evenings will be divided between Company B, the Y. M. C. A., and Gregg Post.