

The Centre Democrat.

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OUR COLLECTOR.

Next week our solicitor and collector, Mr. W. H. Zeigler, will be in Harris' Ferguson and College townships. All persons in the delinquent list on subscription, will be duly notified of time he will call. It is hoped that our patrons will be prepared to give him a substantial greeting when he comes.

EDITORIAL.

THE coal miners strike in the Western coal fields has caused buyers of Clearfield coal to increase their orders, but the price remains the same.

THE Dingly bill has one redeeming feature about it. Under the new tariff wealthy tourists who go abroad dare not bring back more than \$100 worth of wearing apparel. Under the former system tourists were able frequently to smuggle sufficient goods to pay for transportation. Genteel smuggling now is ended. People who can afford to go abroad can afford to pay tariff duties, like we poor devils who must stay at home

MARYLAND is still in line. The following is an extract from the Democratic State Platform:

"The Democracy of Maryland, in common with the Democracy of the Union, believe now, as they always have believed, in honest money, the gold and silver money of the Constitution, and the coinage of both metals without discrimination against either into standard dollars of final payment and redemption."

No step backward in that. The bimetalists are standing by their guns.

A GOOD VETOE.

Gov. HASTINGS did a noble thing when he swiped the appropriation to pay \$5000 for the expenses incurred by the Penna. Legislature in attending the Grant Monument Dedication in N. Y. The trip was not a legislative function, and, therefore, a bill to pay the expenses of the trip was an unwarranted use of the public funds.

In addition, he called attention to the fact that the executive, judicial and military branches of the government of Pennsylvania were represented at the dedication, but were not asking for appropriation to pay their expenses. The Governor thinks the members of the Legislature should pay their own junket bills, an opinion in which the majority of the people of the State will coincide.

A Business Man Talks.

From the Superior (Neb.) Journal: "No" said the hardware man to the farmer, as he tied up the package of nails in the paper, "as you say, people talk about the low price of what they sell, and don't say a word about the low price of what they buy. Take those nails, now. What do you suppose those nails would cost you ten years ago? Just about six cents a pound, and now you can take the lot of better goods at 3 cents and the extra wrapper thrown in. That's not much, you say. Not so much on a little lot of nails, perhaps, but ten cents isn't much on the bushel of potatoes you brought in just now, and that's all the difference in price from ten years ago, and yet you grumble at the low price. It's not the pound of nails that hurts you. Everything in my store has gone down the same way. Your wheat and hay and chickens and butter and eggs bring substantially the same prices, they did ten years ago. You farmers forget that you have things to buy as well as things to sell. Want to buy a plow this year? There's a dandy for \$12. Ten years ago I'd have asked \$16 for it. There's \$4 saved to you on one clip. There's a better planter than the one I sold you ten years ago for \$60—a whole lot better. Take it along for \$40. Remember that binder you bought of me ten years ago for \$18? Must be worn out, eh? I'll sell you a 50 per cent. better one to-day and throw off the \$9. You farmers don't know when you are well off."

The Peach Crop.

From present indications the peach crop, now about to be marketed, will be the shortest crop produced in this country for eight years. Reports from Maryland and Delaware, which are usually two of the leading States, estimate that the crop there will not be more than one-fourth the yield of last year. The failure is largely caused by the ravages of the curculio—an insect that infests nearly every orchard in that great peach-growing country—and by the late frosts affecting the blossoms and causing them to drop off in June.

More encouraging reports come from the peach-growing districts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but, notwithstanding, there will be a scarcity of peaches in July and August. There will be a fair crop in September, because they then commence to come from the mountainous districts.

Smoker's Heart-Burn.

Heart-burn from excessive smoking, or from any other cause, is relieved by the first dose of No. 10, Dr. Humphrey's Specific for Dyspepsia-25c. all druggists.

REPLY TO "TAXPAYER."

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: In the Watchman of July 23, a "taxpayer" writing for the purpose of commending Mr. Brachbill a member of council, makes it his business, before he reaches the purpose of his communication, to labor the borough council, the overseers of the poor and the school board.

We know nothing about the number of mills of tax levied for borough purposes, but if the council has levied the amount alleged by "taxpayer," and will then pay the \$8,000 of floating debt, which he alleges exists, the council is doing exactly the right thing.

The chances are, however, that the statements "taxpayer" makes about the borough finances are erroneous. We are sure they are, unless he stuck close to the real facts, than he did in his statement concerning the finances of the school board.

If "taxpayer" had made inquiry he could easily have learned that the school board only levied a tax of six mills, instead of seven, as he alleges. An examination of the published reports of the finances of the school board, would have shown him that the state appropriation was only \$4586.48, instead of \$5,000 or nearly so, as he alleges, and that instead of having over \$5,000 of unpaid taxes, there was only \$4,377.49 reported; and on inquiry he would have learned that when commissions and exonerations were taken out the sum realized would not exceed \$3,500.

We should like the "taxpayer" to be more specific and correct in his charges of extravagance in the school department of the borough. Grounds and buildings must be kept up, and from present appearances they are only in a reasonable state of repair. Teachers must be paid, and from all that we can learn salaries are not high.

Indeed, we are inclined to think the directors too close in this matter. If they are not, why is it that every little while the teacher's, whose place is hardest to fill, go somewhere else. If the board paid the salaries they should, this would not be the case. The only complaint that might be legitimately brought against the board is their habit of employing so many young bits of girls, not out of their teens, as teachers. It is poor policy to employ a green teacher at \$25 or \$30, or even \$20 a month, when one who is experienced and trained can be secured for \$40 or \$50. True, these girls may, in time, make good teachers, but the taxpayers are paying them while in training, and while the untrained teacher is experimenting on immortal minds and by mistakes made, because of their want of years and experience, misdirect the whole course of human lives. If the newspapers of the town are correct, the board recently adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved: "That for the purpose of raising the standing of our schools and the securing and maintaining a higher standard of the teaching force, no teacher shall be hereafter employed in this district who shall not have at least two years of actual and successful experience in teaching, or who shall, after graduating at the High school, have taken a course of study for a period of at least one year, in some one of our Normal Schools, or other High grade school or college."

This is clearly a step in the right direction, only the board should have adopted and applied it years ago. It is to be hoped that this resolution will be the fixed rule of the board, and that hereafter no teacher will be employed who has not complied with the terms of the resolution, both in letter and spirit. To get back to the subject of "taxpayer," we would like much if he would be specific. Members of the school board, as well as councilmen, serve without pay. The money for school purposes all passes into the hands of one man. Will "taxpayer" tell us how the financiers of the board play with the school funds? "NORTH WARD."

The New Train Service.

It is stated on good authority but not officially that arrangements have all been completed for the putting on of the new through train between Philadelphia and Erie. The train will make its first trip on August 1 and will run daily except Sundays. It will leave Philadelphia at 8.50 o'clock p. m. and will arrive at Harrisburg at midnight, Lock Haven about 3 in the morning. Renovo at 4, Kane at 7 and Erie at 10 o'clock. Returning to Philadelphia it will leave Erie at 7.35 in the morning. The new train from Philadelphia will make no stops for breakfast but a dining car will be a part of its make-up. The train will only stop at the more important stations.

Bids For Stands.

For Business Men's Picnic at Hecla Park, on August 12th, 1897, bids will be received for the following district and separate privileges on the grounds, viz: ice cream stands, fruit and confectionery stands, cigar and tobacco stands, soda water fountain, checking baggage, snooting galleries, swings, photograph gallery, lemonade, soft drinks and peanuts, and other special attractions not conflicting with above list. All bids must be received by noon on Friday, August 6th. Right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

J. W. Gephart, General Superintendent, Bellefonte, Penna.

What Do the Children Drink?

Don't give them tea or coffee. Have you tried the new food drink called Grain-O? It is delicious and nourishing and takes the place of coffee. The more Grain-O you give the children the more health you distribute through their systems. Grain-O is made of pure grains, and when properly prepared tastes like the choice grades of coffee but costs about 1/4 as much. All grocers sell it. 15c. and 25c.

—Straw hats at any price, at Lewins.

The Chainless Bicycle.

Ten thousand chainless bicycles will be put on the market next year by a prominent manufacturer. It is said there will be at least half a dozen makes of these wheels for sale, and the price will be \$100. A manufacturer who has tested his chainless wheel over 800 miles of roads in all sorts of conditions says the wheels will be of a higher gear than the chain wheels, and records will be smashed with them galore.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Some Important Changes in the Ballot Law.

GOVERNOR ENDS SESSION'S WORK

His Veto AX Was Used on Numerous Bills Conscientiously—Appropriations Cut Down and Approved—Pennsylvania Day at Tennessee's Centennial.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Aug. 3.—Some important changes in the ballot law were made by the late legislature, and Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Barnett, in an interview, sets forth what these changes are. Owing to the trouble about nomination papers a year ago, and the numerous contests in the Dauphin county court, as a result thereof an amendment was inserted providing that all blank forms for nominations shall hereafter be furnished by the secretary of the commonwealth in the interest of uniformity. No other form shall be used for such purposes. Another amendment provides that five persons shall have the exclusive right to a party name, providing proper certificates shall have been filed with the prothonotary and certified to by the secretary of the commonwealth. In the old act the "representatives" were not mentioned. Another important change is that which provides that objections to certificates to nomination must be made 35 days before election, instead of 18. This gives more time to print the ballots in the case of contests in court. It is further provided in the amended bill that the name of a candidate for any office shall not appear more than once on a certificate of nomination or a nomination paper. This will have the effect of reducing the size of the ballot, which has been growing to mammoth proportions.

Governor Hastings has concluded the work left him as a legacy by the legislature, and on Friday started overland for his home in Bellefonte. He had many things to consider in disposing finally of the bills, but the work was conscientiously done, and he leaves the result to the people. When he started a few weeks ago to investigate the expense accounts of the several committees he realized that he was undertaking something that was bound to arouse the enmity of all persons interested and the criticisms of newspapers unfriendly to him. But having mapped out a line of policy with respect to these bills he continued to the end, and as a consequence of his course the commonwealth has been saved in the neighborhood of half a million dollars. In vetoing the expense accounts of members of the investigating committees the governor took occasion to say that many members had made up their accounts under the honest assumption that they were entitled to mileage and to other compensation not authorized by law. The fact of the matter is, the whole system of legislative investigations, having grown into an abuse, Governor Hastings determined to make a start in the direction of abolishing this species of extravagance. It will be noticed in his vetoes of these bills that he has allowed expenses where it was shown by those who submitted itemized statements that the expenditures were properly made in the line of investigation. He cut down the item of \$76,000 for salaries of officers and employees of the house to about \$60,000, and reduced the senate item for the same purpose in a proportionate degree.

Appropriations Approved. Among the items in the general appropriation bill which were approved are the following: For fitting Grace church for the use of the legislature, \$56,590.36; for rental of Grace church two years, \$20,000; for expenses of Tennessee centennial commission, \$15,000; for unveiling ceremonies of the monument to General John F. Hartranft in the front of the capitol, \$500; for payment of expenses incurred by the Gettysburg Battlefield Monumental Association in the dedication of the equestrian statues of Generals Meade and Hancock, \$1,200.

In the general bill among the items approved was one making an appropriation of \$5,750 for the salary of the chief of bureau of mines for two years; also \$2,654 for assistant chief of this bureau for two years, and \$575 for messenger of the bureau, and \$5,000 for contingent expenses thereof. This is the new bureau created by the last legislature, and Governor Hastings will have the appointment of the chief. It is said that Robert Brownlee, superintendent of the Red Run coal mines, located near Ralston, in Lycoming county, a personal friend of Attorney General McCormick, is his selection. No name has yet been announced in connection with the office of assistant. Attorney General McCormick has handed down an opinion in the matter of publishing mercantile appraisers' lists. In York county some of the newspaper owners held that selecting newspapers for printing the list was a subject for the auditor general to determine, rather than the county commissioners, and some of the newspapers printed the list without authority to do so and sent in bills accordingly. The attorney general held that the matter was one for the commissioners only to decide.

No Bird Day in the Public Schools. The late legislature passed a bill to establish "Bird day" in the public schools and providing for a proclamation of the same by the superintendent of public instruction. This bill has set apart one day in each school year on which the schools would have exercises in the form of lectures upon birds, readings from bird literature and essays containing results of the observations of birds by the pupils, the singing of songs about birds and the recounting of personal experiences with them. Governor Hastings vetoed the bill on the ground that the school children could find more profitable employment in adhering to the established curriculum of studies as is now required than they would if they were occupied in the way provided by the act. He said further that the significance of such school holidays as Christmas, Wash-

ington's Birthday and Lincoln's Birthday, Fourth of July and Memorial Day, would be detracted from by adding "Bird Day."

Two years ago the governor disapproved the bills for the Heller-Laubach senatorial contest from Northampton county, aggregating about \$32,000, because the bills were not itemized. This year other bills were sent to him with the total reduced to about \$18,000, and he approved them. In cutting down the expense accounts of the various investigating committees the governor makes this suggestion: "Inasmuch as there appears to be no legislation fixing the fees of stenographers for services to legislative committees, the fees and mileage of the sergeant-at-arms, in performing service for the committees, I earnestly recommend that an act of assembly be passed governing all these subjects."

Portraits of State Officials. At every session of the legislature there is a bill or two making appropriations for the painting of portraits of state officials or the purchase of portraits of distinguished Pennsylvanians. This year there was an item in the general appropriation bill for \$300 to purchase the portrait of Thaddeus Stevens, painted by Matthew Wilson, for the executive department. The governor disapproved it because the state already owns a fine portrait of Stevens. There is in the bill, however, an item which was approved, making an appropriation of \$2,500 to replace the portraits of ex-Lieutenant Governors John Latta, Charles W. Stone, Chauncey F. Black, William T. Davies and Louis A. Watres, which were destroyed by the burning of the capitol building. These portraits will be placed in the department of the lieutenant governor. There is also an item of \$500 for the painting of the portrait of Lieutenant Governor Walter Lyon, to be placed in the same collection.

The Fish and Game Bill. The State Sportsmen's association was intensely interested in the Baldwin bill providing for a state game and fish warden at a salary of \$1,200 a year, which was vetoed by the governor. At the hearing at the executive department the president of the association made a strong plea for the bill, and even went so far as to pledge the association for the salary of the warden if the governor thought the finances of the state would not justify the approval of the bill. It was disapproved on other grounds, which were set forth at length. The general fish law, framed by the state commission and introduced by Representative Peoples, of Lancaster, was also vetoed, the framers of the measure having repudiated it on account of the changes unsatisfactory to them which were made by the house. This bill was a codification of all the fish laws and a repealer of a number of them.

Among the bills vetoed by the governor was one bearing the name of Representative Simon, of Pittsburg. It provided for the purchase of the franchises and property of electric light companies by the municipalities within whose limits such franchises were exercised, and restricting municipalities from performing any business of such corporation without first acquiring its franchises and property. Strong pressure was brought to bear upon the governor to induce him to sign the bill, but many of the boroughs and cities of the state protested on the ground that such a law would be a serious hindrance to them.

It was expected that the governor would disapprove the appropriations for the Lehigh university and University of Pennsylvania, but he only cut \$50,000 from each institution, giving Lehigh university \$150,000 and the University of Pennsylvania \$200,000. There were few appropriations to hospitals and other private charities disapproved. In fact, with the exception of two hospitals that were not yet built, all these appropriations were signed.

New Mercantile Tax Bill Vetoed. The governor sprung a surprise on the last day by disapproving the mercantile license tax bill, which was opposed by the merchants throughout the state. He says in conclusion, after a full discussion of the measure: "For several years the business depression has been so great that almost every industry has struggled to exist, and I am unwilling to impose further burdens upon these interests for the reasons that I have stated." It was generally expected that the governor would approve this bill, and there were many interested persons who were desirous of being appointed to the positions of mercantile appraiser under this act.

Several prominent Democrats, among them former Lieutenant Governor Chanucey F. Black of York and James Kerr of Clearfield, were here the other day to arrange for a meeting of the executive committee of the State League of Democratic societies on Aug. 12, in this city. This meeting has been called to make arrangements for the annual convention of the societies, which will be held at Wilkesbarre shortly after the Democratic state convention at Reading, when the nominations will be ratified and plans adopted for the campaign.

Owing to the late day the state commission authorized by the late legislature to arrange for Pennsylvania's exhibit at the Tennessee centennial has decided to erect no building, but to recommend to the manufacturers of the state that they make such exhibits as they think best. The Tennessee managers have agreed to reserve for Pennsylvania such space as may be necessary for the state exhibitors. An appropriation having been made by the legislature for the dedication of state monuments at Chicamauga, and also for the transportation of survivors of that battle to the battlefield on the occasion of the dedication of the monuments, it is proposed to have Pennsylvania day at the Tennessee centennial about the 1st of October, so that the old soldiers and others who go south about that time may be able to participate in both events. The Army of the Potomac will have a reunion at Columbus, O., a few days previous, and the general idea is to have the veterans of the war go first to Columbus, thence to the Chattanooga ceremonies and on to Nashville for the Pennsylvania day exercises at the centennial. Governor Hastings and his staff, with other state officials, will go south at this time. An elaborate program has been promised for this occasion.

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