

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - EDITOR & PROP

CIRCULATION, OVER 1800.

Telephone Call 183.

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The Democratic State Ticket.

For State Treasurer, MICHAEL E. BROWN, of Indiana county.

For Auditor General, WALTER E. RITTER, of Williamsport.

The Democratic County Ticket.

For County Surveyor.—J. H. WETZEL. For Jury Commissioner.—J. J. ROY.

EDITORIAL.

The deficiency in the United States treasury for the last year of the Wilson tariff, ending June 30, 1897, was \$18,052,254. The deficiency in the United States treasury for the first three months of the Dingley tariff, in the fiscal year, was 29,015,955. Or at the rate for the current fiscal year of 116,063,820. The deficiency for three months of the Dingley tariff exceeded the deficiency for twelve months of the Wilson tariff by 10,963,701.

PROSPERITY IN OHIO.

Governor St. John, of Kansas, who was the Prohibition candidate for President in the Cleveland-Blaine campaign of 1884, does not have a very high opinion of the spread of prosperity at this time. Talking to the voters of Ohio in a letter to the Columbus "Press" Governor St. John shows that the interest on the mortgage debt of that State at this time, not including railway mortgages, amounts to \$55,000,000 annually, which consumed the entire market value of the great corn crop of 1896, and still left a balance of \$2,000,000 unpaid. He makes the same comparison as to other agricultural products, and has this to say about wheat: Just now we hear a great deal about "dollar wheat," but there is no dollar wheat; and even if there was, Ohio is not a stranger to it, for away back in the fifties, with limited means of transportation, the people depending largely upon the local markets, the price of wheat here in Ohio averaged over \$1 per bushel, while in the sixties it reached as high as \$3.50 per bushel, and averaged from 1865 to 1872, inclusive, \$1.84 per bushel, and even last year wheat reached \$1 per bushel. But now, with a short crop in all the foreign wheat growing countries, the producers of Ohio are asked to shoot themselves hoarse over 88 cent wheat. Just as if such a thing had never been heard of before.

But while there has been an advance in wheat owing to famine crops abroad, Governor St. John shows that other products have declined, instancing a depreciation this year in hay—a most important crop—to one-half the average price for the last forty years. It averaged \$15 to 17 per ton from 1885 to 1896, and it is now down to \$7 and \$7 50. Further says Governor St. John: Bradstreet's report, just out, shows 9,333 failures from January 1 to September 30, 1897, which, excepting the years '93 and '96, is the largest number of failures in a like period since 1881, and I am quite sure it is without a parallel in our country's history. The third week in September showed five more failures than occurred the corresponding week of the "panic year" of 1893. And still we are told in the face of all these facts that "general prosperity" has arrived. If it be true, it has been so long since he was here before that the people don't recognize him. The truth is, there is no prosperity except for the money lender, the monopolies and trusts.

We concede however, that the farmers have been advantaged by the advance in wheat and wool, due to exceptional causes. When they pass the grind of the gold standard will be again in evidence.—Post.

WHERE IS IT GOING TO STOP?

A startling dispatch was sent to the Associated Press from Harrisburg recently. It related to inordinate increases of state offices and salaries and showed conclusively that reform is necessary in the management of state affairs. It is asserted that the expenses technically set down for the three branches of the state government—executive, legislative and judicial,—although now amounting to \$3,126,495.74 for two years, in reality constitute only about one-seventh of the total outlay for that period. The aggregate expenses of these three departments alone, it is said, exceed by about \$1,000,000 the appropriations made for the same purpose in 1889. It is nearly \$1,500,000 in excess of the outlay authorized by the legislature in 1883. Then the appropriations for two years were \$1,868,369.73 and Governor Pattison vetoed \$51,280.75 of this amount. In 1883 the total expenditures of the state were \$6,708,690.22. They have now increased so that in 1895 they amounted to \$13,681,701.74. It is claimed that owing to the annual

collection of certain money that is returned to the counties, the table of receipts and expenditures is deceptive. Taking the sinking fund transfer and personal property taxes returned to the counties in 1896, for instance, the net revenue last year is shown to have been \$10,226,820. This shrinkage and the extraordinary extravagance credited to the legislature of 1895, caused the big deficiency, according to the Harrisburg Dispatch to the Associated Press, and rendered the several revenue laws of the last session necessary. In brief the expenses of the state have grown from \$30,069,155.47 for Pattison's first term—1883-86—to \$31,106,338.73 in Beaver's term and have now jumped to the starting figure of \$48,000,000. This is an interesting condition of affairs, over which the voter and tax payer may well stop and think.

DINGLEY'S FAILURE.

The United States treasury is subsisting these days, under the failure of the Dingley customs tariff, mainly on whisky and tobacco. Take one day as an illustration. On Saturday last customs receipts were only \$386,684, while the internal revenue receipts, almost entirely from spirits, beer and tobacco, were \$1,123,286. The deficiency for the day was \$736,602. That tells the story of one day's operations of the Dingley tariff. The first question that will face the next Congress will be to tinker up the miserable abortion so that it will provide sufficient revenues for the support of the Government. Under the Dingley tariff the treasury would be bankrupt to-day to the extent of \$70,000,000 had it not been for Cleveland's bond issues and the money they accumulated in the treasury. We challenge each and every one of the Republican papers to deny this statement. The pressure of awful facts muzzles them.

The republican papers in this state are devoting most of their time to talking about dollar wheat and prosperity—two visionary topics—to divert attention from the extravagance that has been unearthed at Harrisburg.

REPUBLICANS DON'T REFER TO THE RECENT extravagance at Harrisburg and the corruption in the recent legislature. They don't want the public to think much in that line.

This year in Pennsylvania good government should be of more importance to people than the money question. When we elect new congressmen and a president the money question will be duly considered again.

This week another hotel at Philipsburg goes up and the sheriff will dispose of the property. Free silver was not the cause of its failure, truly it could not have been enjoying any of the Advance Agents prosperity.

GIVE us the double standard and under present circumstances farmers would laugh at \$1 a bushel for wheat. It would have been something like \$1.75 and \$2 instead. Think of it, and that money would be full legal tender, good to pay taxes and debts. This is a point for reflection.

LEMONS.

D. A. Grove's horse took spasmodic colic on Sunday, and died.

The Union L. E. Society elected the following officers for the ensuing term: President, F. W. Bathgate, Vice President, D. A. Grove, Rec. Sec. Bess B. Thompson, Cor. Sec. Cornelia Dale, Treas. D. M. Tate, Organists Mable Thompson and Mary Dale, Ushers, R. U. Wasson and John Bathgate.

Every hunter is ready for Friday when squirrel season comes in. Some have been patient while others could not wait. They went before season, but they were sharp as not to let any one see them, and it was a good thing, or they would have been dealt with according to law.

Good Salt.

Buy the LeRoy Premium Salt for butter, cheese and table use of

R. F. VONADA, Coburn, Pa.

Strange Coincidence.

"Life," says a college newspaper, "is short—only four letters in it. Some one has noted that, curiously, three-quarters of it is a 'lie,' and half of it is an 'if.'"

A Great Surprise Is In Store.

For those who will go to-day and get a package of GRAIN-O. It takes the place of coffee at about 1/2 the cost. It is a food drink, full of health, and can be given to the children as well as the adult with great benefit. It is made of pure grains and looks and tastes like the finest grades of Mocha or Java coffee. It satisfies everyone. A cup of Grain-O is better for the system than a tonic, because its benefit is permanent. What coffee breaks down Grain-O builds up. Ask your grocer for Grain-O, 15c. and 25c.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Congressman W. A. Stone's Candidacy For the Governorship.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN LEGISLATION

The Philadelphia Record Publishes a Statistical Article Which is Causing Much Comment Among the Politicians at the State Capital.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, Oct. 13.—Congressman W. A. Stone, of Pittsburg, the leading candidate in the western section of the state for the Republican nomination for governor next year, was in Philadelphia Saturday. Although Colonel Stone called on State Chairman Elkin and met other prominent politicians, his visit to Philadelphia had no political significance. He was there on legal business, and after transacting it left for Pittsburg.

When Mr. Stone was asked how his gubernatorial candidacy was progressing he replied that so far as he could learn it was moving along in good style. "I did not come east to push along my boom," he said, "but to attend to some important matters for a client. Still, I can say that my candidacy for governor gets the benefit of a full day every day except half holidays, and that I am content with the outlook I am and will be a candidate until the convention declares its choice, and I believe that choice will be myself."

The advocates of the Pittsburg congressman's nomination for the succession to Governor Hastings claim that he occupies vantage ground in the contest at present in that he has captured the delegation to the state convention from Berks county, and that the old soldiers and patriotic organizations are disposed to stand solidly by him on account of his brilliant army record and his efforts to bring about the enactment of a law by congress to restrict immigration.

Just before he left Colonel Stone was asked his idea of the extent and strength of the Thompson movement in the western part of the state. "There is no movement of that kind out there," he replied. "You will find when election day arrives that it will not amount to anything."

Thompson Takes a Different View. William R. Thompson, candidate of the Independents for state treasurer, evidently disagrees with Congressman Stone on the matter of the importance of the movement which brought Mr. Thompson to the front. The Independent candidate has been conferring with numerous citizens as to the best methods of conducting his canvass. The result of these deliberations will be witnessed in a meeting of Independent leaders at the Thompson headquarters this evening, when a campaign committee for the eastern part of the state will be appointed and the practical work of the campaign begun. Mr. Thompson will spend a week in Philadelphia looking personally after the work that is to be done in that locality in the interest of his candidacy.

There is a strong probability that after he confers with the Independent leaders Candidate Thompson will issue a public challenge to James S. Beacom, the Republican candidate for state treasurer, to join him in a public debate of the issues of the state campaign. Mr. Thompson has not yet made up his mind as to the advisability of taking this step.

State Department Expenditures. A recent article in the Philadelphia Record regarding state department expenditures is causing considerable gossip among politicians here. The article says:

The increase from \$435,101.78 in the year 1887 to \$1,223,502.93 in 1897, of the biennial appropriation for the state executive offices furnishes through its details no more instruction to the political campaigners than is obtainable from certain other items in the commonwealth's annual outlay of from \$11,000,000 to \$12,000,000. The vetoed items in this year's executive appropriation amount to only \$38,600. The late legislature was less noted for increasing the executive office extravagance of two years ago than for trying to capture everything in sight for itself. While, of course, continuing in the general appropriation bill the additional million dollars required by the offices, other than legislative, created or reorganized in 1895, the general assembly this year distinguished itself specially by extending the list of senate and house employes for whom the only legal warrant was the appropriation bill passed months after they had begun to draw pay. Not less extraordinary than this was the grabbing attempted with partial success by investigating committees packed with factional dependents who struck out for Klondike which they expected as reward for services in recent hot political battles.

More than anything else this padding of the legislative payroll, treasury raiding by investigating committees and big swelling of the "incidental" expenses of both senate and house, gave the "Seventy-six" the desired opportunity for their grand stand play during the final hours of the session, and enabled Governor Hastings to gain prestige with his veto ax. It is understood that the Democratic spellbinders, in their campaign against machine misrule, will not pass lightly over these chapters from the official records.

To comprehend the recent dispute between Governor Hastings and certain state managers at Harrisburg, over appropriations for the largely increased number of legislative employes, a glance at the following list of permanent office holders and their salaries authorized by the act of 1874, is helpful.

Authorized Legislative Officials. These officials were authorized in the senate: Chief clerk, \$2,500 a year; journal clerk, \$1,500; reading clerk, \$1,500; message clerk, \$1,000; two transcribing clerks, \$800 each; librarian, \$800. Sergeant-at-arms, \$800, and two assistants, \$500 each; doorkeeper, \$600, and two assistants, \$500 each; messenger, \$500, and assistant, \$400; postmaster, \$500. Superintendent folding room, \$600; six printers and folders, \$600 each; watchman, \$3 a day; two firemen, \$600 each; janitor of committee rooms, \$600; ten pages, each \$2 a day. Total, \$57,000. Buy the same act the following were appointed in the house: Chief clerk, \$2,500 a year; resident

clerk, \$2,000; reading clerk, \$1,500; journal clerk, \$1,500; message clerk, \$1,000. Two transcribing clerks, \$800 each; sergeant-at-arms, \$800, and four assistants, \$500 each; doorkeeper, \$600, and three assistants, \$500 each, with an additional doorkeeper for the rotunda; message clerk, \$600, and three assistants, \$500 each.

Postmaster, \$500, and one assistant, \$500; superintendent folding rooms, \$600; ten printers and folders, \$600 each; watchman, \$3 a day; two janitors of basement, \$600 each; two firemen, \$600 each; two janitors for committee rooms, \$600 each; janitor of wash room, \$500; 15 pages, each \$2 a day. Total, \$71,000.

Another authorized employe, an engineer, to be named by the clerks of both houses, made the total number of legislative employes legally provided for 96, not counting scrub women.

In 1895 the legislature voted itself the following 13 additional regular employes: In the senate, one executive clerk, two transcribing clerks and two janitors; in the house, two transcribing clerks, one bill book clerk, two assistant doorkeepers, two janitors of committee rooms, and one janitor in the basement. All these places were filled long before the enactment of the law therefor.

The position of clerk to the president pro tem, is of this year's creation. The speaker's clerkship is of longer standing. These, with a chaplain for each house, gives the senate a total of 45 employes authorized by law, and the house 67 with the same warrant.

The Multiplication of Offices. In line with the multiplication of offices and raising of salaries throughout the executive departments since Mr. Pattison's first term as governor, nearly all the figures fixed by the act of 1874 for legislative officers and employes have been raised. The senate librarian's pay, increased from \$500 to \$2,000, is an instance, and he has two assistants besides. The chief clerk of each house gets an extra \$1,000 for the year in which there is no regular session, and the resident clerk \$1,500 for that year.

The reading and journal clerks of both houses have had their pay raised from \$1,500 to \$1,800 each. The senate executive clerk gets \$1,500, and, like the chief clerks and reading and journal clerks, receives \$10 a day for extra sessions. The extra pay of resident clerk is \$3 a day. In any sort of session the message clerks now get \$3 a day each; transcribing clerks, bill clerks, sergeant-at-arms and assistants, speaker's clerk and postmasters each \$7 a day, which for the last legislative term of six months amounted to over \$1,200 in each case.

The doorkeepers and assistants, assistant postmasters, messengers and assistants, superintendents of folding rooms, engineer, firemen, janitors and pasters and folders now receive \$4 a day each; the chaplains each \$3; pages each \$2; watchmen \$3 during the year, and the engineer and fireman in the cellar, in addition to their salaries for the session, \$3 a day for the time employed during the recess. Such a job as that of paster and folder was, therefore, worth last term \$400 more than under the act of 1874, and the other employes generally had received proportionate increases. Every office and employe receives mileage at the and employe receives mileage.

In the early part of the late legislative session a decree of the slate makers of both houses was carried out, under which was employed a clerk to each of the following committees of the senate: Appropriations, corporations, finance, judiciary general, judiciary special, municipal affairs, railroads, compare bills and agriculture, or nine in all, unauthorized by law other than the appropriation bill.

This year's creators of extra offices, without authority of law, fixed also a clerk to each of the following committees of the house: Railroads, corporations, municipal affairs, city passenger railways, judiciary local, agriculture, compare bills, education, mines and mining and insurance. In addition to these ten committee clerks, there were two extra transcribing clerks, or in all 12 extra house employes.

The Legislature's Authority. Here is the requirement of section 10, article 3, of the constitution: "The general assembly shall prescribe by law the number, duties and compensation of the officers and employes of each house, and no payment shall be made from the state treasury, or be in any way authorized, to any person, except to an acting officer or employe elected or appointed in pursuance of law."

There were employed in the last senate 54 clerks and other persons, or 16 more than the number fixed by the act of 1874; and in the house 79, or 22 more than that law provided for. Of these it is officially admitted that there were at least 21 for whom there was no law except the provision for pay in the general appropriation bill. It is strongly hinted in the official correspondence resulting from the recent shakeup in the Hastings cabinet that still other unauthorized employes were engaged, with the view of taking care of them in the items for "incidentals."

In addition to the 133 clerks, janitors, pages, etc., in both houses, there was the usual large number of women employed in cleansing. The governor in vetoing \$7,266 of the \$54,976 appropriated for officers and employes of the senate, exclusive of librarian, watchman and pages, admitted that he approved the pay for as many of the employes unprovided for by law as he had assented to with the slate makers. He made a similar admission in vetoing \$12,350 of the \$75,404 appropriated for officers and employes of the house, exclusive or resident clerk, watchman and pages.

The governor and Attorney General McCormick deny State Chairman Elkin's assertion that the assent of the executive was given to the entire slate of 21, but the Quay lieutenants contend that, from the governor's own point of view, there would have no more impropriety in his approving all than in granting pay for ten committee clerks, the appointment of whom, Mr. McCormick says, the governor agreed to.

The current appropriation for "incidentals" is more than two and one-half times the amount granted in Pattison's year, and beats the record breaking session of 1895 by \$4,000, while being 50 per cent above the amount for Beaver's year.

The foregoing figures show that the medal for leading in the race of the expense bill grabbers of the last ten years belongs to the late legislature, whose title to equal distinction for expanding the regular and irregular pay rolls is also undisputed. WILKINS.

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