

# The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, -- EDITOR & PROP

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(Subject to the decision of the district conference.)

#### FOR SENATE:

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### DEM. COUNTY TICKET.

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For Prothonotary--M. I. GARDNER.

For District Attorney--N. B. SPANGLER, ESQ.

For County Surveyor--HARRY HERRING.

### EDITORIAL.

#### ARE THEY FOR QUAY?

On Monday the following communication reached this office:

Fleeting, Pa., Aug. 19, 1898.

EDITOR OF THE DEMOCRAT:--An editorial in the last issue of your paper, bearing the heading "Convention Reflections" attracted much interest and discussion in this section. We generally find the statements in the Democrat well founded and reliable; but, like all, you are liable to err, due no doubt to misinformation. In that article the statement is made that the nominees of the Republican convention--Phil Womelsdorf, for State Senate; E. F. Townsend and John A. Daley, for Legislature--are pronounced anti-Quay candidates. You base the assertion on their past record. That may be correct, but I believe you are mistaken as to their present attitude. Phil Womelsdorf made his canvass as a Quay candidate. There is no doubt about this and it must have been Quay money that was spent so freely by him in the campaign. Everywhere the Quay people were back of him. He may have once been for Wanamaker--now he certainly is for Quay and if elected would vote for Quay's re-election to the U. S. Senate. The same can be said of Mr. Townsend and John Daley. That is my impression, and the opinion held by Republicans in this section is the same. I think the Democrat, in this particular, is mistaken. Their nomination was a black eye to the opposition. Don't you think so?

#### A REPUBLICAN.

The Democrat does not claim to be infallible. It does err, like other mortals. At the time of writing that editorial we judged these candidates, from former campaigns. Womelsdorf was a pronounced Wanamaker man but a few years ago, and prominent Republicans, in a position to know, declare that Wanamaker supplied him with a large sum of money for campaign purposes in the hope of securing his support, if elected, for U. S. Senate, when Penrose defeated Wanamaker. If Phil is for Quay now, he has changed his skin--something very inconsistent for a man who lays claims to high official integrity and honor. If this is true that Womelsdorf is now for Quay his pretensions don't amount to the snap of a finger. Womelsdorf no doubt is for Womelsdorf, first last and all the time, and would crawl on any band wagon that leads the head of the procession, and gets there.

Townsend may be for Quay. Philadelphia is for Quay strong, and no doubt he is in accord with those people. As to John A. Daley, he is afraid to say where he is. He won't tell the people where he stands. He is neither "a long-tailed rat or a mouse." He will be anything any time, to advance his interests, and that is exactly the kind of a man Quay wants in the legislature and the kind of a candidate the people should elect--to stay at home.

The evils of Quay's rule in this State are the issue in this campaign, and the man who does not have the courage to tell what he will do if elected, is not fit to represent this county in our legislative halls.

Yes; the Democrat may have been in error--these may be Quay candidates.

THE comments in our last issue on the character of the men who opposed Gov. Hastings, at the recent republican primaries, attracted much comment throughout the county. Many inquired why we did not give a complete list of those who had been befriended by the Gov. and then proved ungrateful. The reason is there are too many. If all the Republicans, who received favors from Gov. Hastings and then forgot him, were stood in a row, it would reach from the court house to the station. That is why we could not enumerate all--only the leading roosters.

### A RINGING ADDRESS.

Issues of the Fall Campaign are Plainly Set Forth.

The executive committee of the Pennsylvania state league of Democratic societies met last Thursday and issued a ringing address to the people of the Keystone state:

We, the undersigned executive committee of the Democratic society of Pennsylvania, invite the serious attention of the people of our state to the political conditions which confront us, and to the all important matters at stake in the approaching general election.

It is charged on the one side, and confessed on the other, that every branch of our state government is corrupt and corrupting. The taxpayers and business interests tremble at the assembling of the legislature. They know not what new shame or fresh burden it will lay upon them, or what assaults upon the rights of the people or of the municipalities will be introduced, to be bought off, or engineered to final passage, to serve the purpose of predatory politicians. The executive is little or no better. That here and there a veto has temporarily suspended an obnoxious measure until terms can be made among disputing conspirators touching the distribution of the common spoils is only a fortunate accident in politics. Nothing in the recent history of the executive branch affords any reason to suppose that it has been inspired by a high purpose to enforce in spirit and in letter the wise provisions of our sound or constitution to check the aggressions of allied corporations and political machines, to guard and promote wholesome competition in business, to shield the taxpayers from corrupt raids and oppressive impositions, or any other wise to stand immovably for the principles of human liberty, according to the solemn tenor of that oath, which each governor is required to take before entering upon the duties of his great office.

This condition of affairs is not new. It has subsisted since the time when the memory of most men runneth not to the contrary. But it appears to be worse now than heretofore. Long impunity has emboldened aggression. Corrupt and scandalous transactions, which a quarter of a century ago were concealed or denied, are to-day confessed and defended on the ground that unquestioned usage in the past renders them legitimate in the present, or at least relieves them of a portion of the blackness of their inherent guilt. No one concerned in them nowadays takes the trouble to extenuate them. Balances of millions of the taxpayers' money are carried in the several funds of the treasury for the pecuniary benefit of anybody but the commonwealth. Appropriations of the gravest importance remain unpaid, until it suits the convenience of the custodians of these funds to let them go to their proper legal objects. The charities of the state suffer, the schools are compelled to borrow money at high rates, while their own money is serving some other purpose. We can not pursue the details of these and like public crimes further this time. The newspapers have spread them widely. All well informed citizens know the facts and understand them. The political organization which is brought to judgment in these premises simply says, in effect, we represent a hide-bound partisan majority. What, therefore, are you going to do about it?

We have much reason to fear that their confidence is only too well grounded. Republican voters have borne and forborne so long and so much that it is difficult to foretell when, if ever, they will turn to rend the oppressor and to end the shame of their party and of their state. That a very large proportion of the Republican people of the state are scandalized, humiliated and alarmed by the excesses committed in the name and to the everlasting dishonor of their party is beyond question. But is the confidence of the guilty leaders in their unreasoning partisanship well founded or ill? If the latter no relief is at hand. Appeals to their self-respect and patriotism, to their love of state and even to their manifest self-interest will be unavailing. We prefer, however, to believe that all good citizens of whatever party are ready to join with us, ignoring purely partisan questions in one great fraternal effort for the redemption of the state, the purging of its government, legislative and executive, and a complete reformation of official and public morals. Our convention representing the great minority party of the commonwealth, drew the issues clearly and definitely. No intelligent person can mistake them. Those who pretend to see in this canvass any other real issues than those state issues presented by the Altoona convention, do not wish to see aright. If any disturbing extraneous subject shall be brought into this campaign, the evil consequences will not be chargeable to the Democratic party with its half million enlightened voters, who read only the cooperation of a fraction of their fellow citizens, ordinarily otherwise politically classified, in order to effect the radical change in state government which all of us profess to desire, and most of us desire above all things. The executive is within easy reach of reform, if those who are best known as reformers shall show by their acts that they want reform, and so also promote and encourage an honest union of the better citizenship everywhere for a pure and safe legis-

lature. No true man, actually seeking genuine and vital reforms, can find a decent excuse for standing aloof. We, the Democratic party, alone, by reason of our numbers, can hope for success against the public enemy so long entrenched in power. We present the very issues and those only which all reformers profess to wish. We go farther still in this direction than any of the groups of citizens who have organized ostensibly to put the commonwealth in honest and faithful hands. We join them in their general arraignment and on every separate count in the indictment but, unlike them, we do not complicate the momentous state issue, that is to say, the reforms proposed to be obtained, by any extraneous question whatever. We do also what none of them have yet done: We demand the reform comprehending all reforms, an honest election law, a clean registry, a pure ballot and a fair count. Without this the offices may change hands, but there can be no permanent reform in any department of government.

It must be obvious to reasonable men that the only hope of success against the obnoxious regular Republican tickets for state offices and the legislature lies in the support of the Democratic tickets, which represent a body of voters, only less in numbers, than those represented by those Republican tickets. Men who, under these circumstances, throw away their votes, must answer to their own consciences. Whatever else good and admirable they may be, they are not practical reformers. For such a waste, or worse, of votes, whose owners profess reform, no excuse can be found in the character of our candidates any more than in the character of our platform. In high personal character, in individual integrity, in point of mental qualifications, it is unexceptionable. Never in the history of the commonwealth has any party put in the field a ticket superior in these important particulars. In George A. Jenks we offer to the people a candidate of stainless reputation, of great abilities and of large experience, one who has been tried in many great trusts and failed in none. He is the peer in all respects of any man who ever stood for the office of governor in this commonwealth. He is the very type and perfect representative of our best people. The man who is too good to vote for George A. Jenks will find no congenial refuge for his peculiar kind of patriotism outside the hallowed temple of regular machine politics.

We confidently ask the suffrages of all good men for the Democratic state and legislative candidates, assured that whether elected or defeated, they will betray no trust, violate no pledge and reflect no dishonor upon those who have patriotically supported them. If our state shall be further degraded, harried and plundered, as in the immediate past, the responsibility for those conditions will lie elsewhere than at the door of the Democratic party.

THE last republican county convention that nominated Townsend and Daley for legislature unanimously also endorsed Quay's record. If these men will represent their people, in case of an election, they would support Quay for another term in the U. S. Senate.

THE last issue of the Keystone Gazette was a little cloudy on Arnold. A fellow could read between the lines that Harter was not in the best of humor after the convention. He swallowed his dose with a struggle.

NEITHER Foster or Wetzel would vote for Quays re-election to the U. S. Senate. It is no certain that Townsend and Daley would. That is the difference--the people can take their choice.

#### BIRTHPLACE OF THE FLAG.

The following happy tribute to the American flag, is the conclusion of an address delivered by Governor Hastings in Philadelphia:

"If yonder flag, hanging in graceful folds, could find voice and expression, it might say to the world: 'I had my birth in Philadelphia; my stripes of red and white and field of blue and 13 stars were first kissed by Pennsylvania's sunlight; I was first to reach the top of your tower on Independence hall; I was first to point out from whence came the music of your Liberty bell; I led the vanguard of the Continental army from Valley Forge to Yorktown; I festooned the capitols of every state until, instead of 13, I displayed five and forty stars; I first blushed in protest against slavery in my native Keystone state; the lilies of France floating over Fort Duquesne were lowered to the lion of St. George floating over Fort Pitt, but both gave way to me when the wind from the free Alleghenies unfurled my colors above the waters of the Ohio at the town of Pittsburgh.

'I led your conquering armies from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico; I was trailed in the dust, but rose again, to feel the loyal grasp of Lincoln and Grant, and to give inspiration to the millions of men and women who loved the country and the cause for which I stood, and to-day I float in peace and in glory over every capital in this broad land. I stand for liberty, for the noblest ambition of humanity, for peace throughout the world, and for the dignity and honor and protection of all who love liberty and equality, and who claim the sheltering protection which I have always given.'

### THE WAR AGAINST QUAYISM.

The war "for humanity" against Spain has been fought to a victorious ending. The war against Quayism for good government--of, for and by the people--is yet to be fought out to a like conclusion, says the Philadelphia Ledger. That a man such as Matthew Stanley Quay should be a senator of the United States dishonors not only the state whose commission he flaunts; it dishonors the whole country. The presence of Mr. Quay in the national senate would be a less serious matter if he were only mentally incompetent. But he is not only that; he is morally unfit to hold the post of a senator. He is not a statesman--makes no pretence of statesmanship. He is a politician--a chaffer and dealer in politics--not an unselfish patriot, upholding, advancing great and provident principles of statecraft for the weal of the country. He is the sordid promoter of his own personal and political fortunes. For forty-two years he has been an officeholder, and has prospered exceedingly in that pursuit. Not satisfied with so much, he now demands that he shall be again elected to the senate for another term of six years.

Why should he be? Among the useful statutes of congress the adoption of which benefited, in great or small degree, the people, who can name one of which he was the author? Yet, for nearly twelve years he has been a member of congress--a senator. During that long period of senatorial opportunity, what speech has he made of which a single line or word can be recalled, unless it be that brief one which malignity against a political opponent, and which the subject of it should never forget, though, if common rumor be true, he already fails to remember it.

Precisely as the record of Mr. Quay's private life is without ostentatious displays of personal virtues, so is his public record unadorned with words or acts which commend it to the admiration and esteem of the country. It is not, however, his mental or moral characteristics which afford the most convincing reasons why he should not be re-elected to the senate. His senatorial sins of omission fill the book from cover to cover; his sins of commission may not be so numerous, but they are greater, more reprehensible.

The bedrock principle of our government is that the people themselves shall be the sovereign rulers; that between them, their will and power, and the right to choose who shall be their public servants, no one, no other will or power, shall stand. This fundamental principle Senator Quay has for years set aside, and has himself usurped the right and power of the people to choose their public servants. He has asserted and exercised his personal right and power to choose both the executive and legislative representatives of the government, and at this time he is scheming and plotting to elect one of his subservient henchmen to the office of chief executive of the commonwealth, and others of his pliant followers to other offices of administration. The present state treasurer was chosen by him as one certain to be faithful to his patron. To secure his own re-election to the senate he demands that he shall be given the choice of a majority of the legislature. He had a majority at the last session of the present legislature, and one so corrupt, venal and harmful to Pennsylvania was never assembled at the capital.

He demands a successor to it, similar to it; one subservient to his control, the servant of his will. The choice by the people of a majority of able honest patriotic legislators would make the present term of Senator Quay his last term. It is against that possibility that he is now contending.

Senator Quay has already a state treasurer of his own choice. The chances are many and great that his personally selected candidate for governor will be elected. But though it may not be possible to defeat his candidate for governor, it will not be difficult to defeat his candidates for the legislature. They may be readily identified by the Quay collars about their necks. In every legislative district of the state where there is a Quay nominee, reputable Republicans, Democrats, free silverites and populists should unite to defeat him. In no other way can the arbitrary and baneful influences of Quayism be removed from the politics and government of the state.

#### Oats Damaged by Showers.

The oats crop in this county has met great harm from the recent showers, since, perhaps, over half the crop remained in the fields on shock or lay on the stubble cut in sheaves. That on shock has sprouted or rotted to a great extent, while the other is much tainted with mustiness. In occasional fields there was some wheat and rye on shock in the fields, likewise injured by the showers.

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G. A. R. National Encampment. For the thirty-second National Encampment of G. A. R., to be held at Cincinnati, O., September 5 to 10, 1898, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets at rate of single fare for the round trip. These tickets will be sold on September 3, 4 and 5, and will be good to leave Cincinnati returning not earlier than September 6 nor later than September 13, except that by depositing ticket with Joint Agent at Cincinnati on September 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, and on payment of twenty-five cents, return limit may be extended so that passengers may remain at Cincinnati until October 2.

#### Pay Your Own Taxes.

The act of July 15, 1897, provides, that from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any persons to pay or cause to be paid any occupation or poll tax assessed against an elector, except on the written and signed order of such elector, authorizing such payment to be made, which written or signed order must be presented at least thirty days prior to the date of holding the election at which such elector desires to vote. Any person violating this act is subject to imprisonment for a term of not less than twenty days and not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding two hundred dollars. All voters should pay their own taxes and take no chances of violating this law.

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