

The Centre Democrat.

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CANDIDATES' REVIEWED.

Timely Topics For the Thoughtful Voters Attention.

Men and Measures Represented on the State Ticket--The Most Important Offices on the County Ticket to the Tax-payers are County Commissioners--Why a Change is Needed in that Department--Read Carefully.

The time is short, until November 7th, when the voters will be called upon to attend another election for the selection of state and county officials. Now is the time that most men will be seriously considering what they will do on that occasion, and to whom they would prefer delegating the right for conducting the various important offices. In a general way, we wish to review the situation, as it presents itself, hoping thereby to be of some service to those who have given comparatively little or no attention to the various candidates, or the principles involved, and the significance of the election:

STATE TICKET:

Three positions are to be filled on the state ticket: Treasurer, Judge of the Supreme Court and Judge of the Superior Court. In voting this part of the ticket the same old problem, in all its seriousness, presents itself: Shall the Quay-Machine rule be perpetuated in the state? Everybody who reads the papers knows that the present republican ticket represents the triumph of Quay and his followers, who for many years dominated and controlled the affairs of this great state for their personal benefit, and that today, from ocean to ocean, corrupt politics and Quayism are mentioned to the discredit of the Keystone State, and a reflection upon our people who have endorsed and approved the same by their ballots.

An effort was made by prominent independent republicans of the state to put an end to these evil practices, but the combined power of the machine was too strong for them and a Quay ticket was again nominated this year, to which many leading republicans in this county protested, by sending Williams and Gowland to the state convention, there they by their votes filed a protest to Quayism. Last week the Quay candidate for superior court was compelled to withdraw from that ticket because he was shown to have been connected with many swindling concerns; a man who would have been a disgrace to the judiciary, as his integrity is questionable, utterly unfit, yet he was the choice of the machine, and had not his record been shown up, he might have gotten to the bench to do the bidding of the Quay elements when necessary. The men now on that ticket for the judiciary are some better, but they are the machine candidates. For state treasurer they selected Lieut. Col. Barnett, who recently returned from the Philippines. In order to dodge state issues and the squandering of the state funds, the "Patriotic" racket is being worked on the people. They cry "Stand by the Flag," and parade their candidate around in full uniform with a lot of soldier lackies, as an appeal to the patriotic sentiment of the public--"Patriotism" is often the cloak for the villain. Even in this case, the effort seems to have been a failure as evidence is produced to the effect that this soldier candidate was so brave that when the 10th Regiment went into an engagement near Manila this "warrior bold" disgraced his uniform by hiding behind a rice-dyke-mound, while the privates made the advance against the deadly rain of flying rebel bullets. Members of the regiment have testified to these things, and it may be necessary for them to withdraw him also; the soldier racket is not a success under such circumstances.

The disgraceful scenes about the state capitol the past few years should awaken the public to the evils of the present machine, of which Quay is the leader. So long as you vote for his ticket that long these things will continue. There is no fault to be found with our Democratic State Ticket, every one is able and clean--worthy of your support.

COUNTY TICKET:

Of greater importance to you than anything else is your selection of men to fill your local offices, and for that reason there should be care exercised in voting this part of the ticket. By this time you should have some personal knowledge of the candidates, and their peculiar fitness for the positions to which they aspire. In Centre county the following offices are to be filled this year: treasurer, register, recorder, two county commissioners, two auditors and a coroner.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: While not first on the list, yet, by far, this is the most important one to the people. They collect and expend over \$50,000 of your money each year and to them more opportunity is given than in any other department in the county for wrong doing, extravagance and corruption in the handling of such vast sums.

Importance is attached to the duties of other offices, but most of them are regulated by definite fee bills, or the duties are so positively set forth that there can be no deviation.

The past few weeks there has been considerable discussion in regard to this department. This paper has devoted much space to the evils practiced the past few years by the present republican commissioners, Messrs Riddle and Fisher. This attracted wide attention and the public has been astounded at some of the revelations. In reply to these exposures the Keystone Gazette has attempted a defense, with a lot of abuse of outside parties, dodging the issue, or denying facts and heaping vituperation on the writer's head. That sheet, the past three weeks, has been filled with a lot of epithets like "sneaks," "smelling brigade," "liars," "devil fish," "cowards," "falsifiers," "hounds," "ghouls," "midnight assassins," and such like, which is only amusing and shows that the poor boy has "lost his head." Like a common practice among lawyers when trying a case, if they have no facts, satisfy their clients by "giving the other side h---i." It is a mistake to criticize Mr. Harter for the weak defense he has put up for his commissioners, because he is short on facts and is doing the best he can under the circumstances. Had they done better, he could say more; therefore the Gazette is not at fault.

The following are reasons why Messrs. Riddle and Fisher are considered unworthy of a re-election:

1st.--Last year they increased the taxes 1-2 mill, or about \$5,500.00 more money than the former boards had collected from the people; and their statement showed that the county's surplus was over \$14,000.00 at the first of that year. That is unjust taxation, to create a surplus, for political effect. See page 4.

2nd.--They have been collecting almost twice as much Dog Tax each year as was necessary to pay the sheep claims, and are using the excess to pay county orders, to the amount of about \$2000.00 the past two years. This is contrary to the intent of the act, and an imposition on every dog owner in this county. This is another illegal method of accumulating a political surplus. See page 4.

3rd.--The county pays large sums of money each year in the shape of interest to the banks, and individuals also, for borrowed money. Commissioner Matthew Riddle, in August of this year, had drawn over \$300.00 from the county treasury to which he was not entitled, using it for his own personal convenience. True, the county may not lose a cent, as he gave a bond when he was elected, which is a guarantee for such shortcomings. But the act shows the disposition, and the "secret Minute Book" he calculated as his cloak, it failed in concealing the deed. Given the opportunity, what might the result be? Who knows? Last time people voted for him as a favor; this time his official record is the measure by which he must be gauged for a re-election; a vote for him means the approval of the misuse of public funds.

4th.--These Commissioners paid \$125 more, to a political favorite, to have the jail repainted than other parties offered previously to do the same work; and they hunted the job up, too. One of the best mechanics in Bellefonte said yesterday: "I would repaint the jail for \$125.00 and make \$8.00 per day at it. All the material used would not cost over \$5.00. Brown stone work should be pointed as well as other masonry or the work is not complete." They paid Tom McCafferty \$275.00 for the "job."

5th.--Not understanding their business, they spent money to make repairs on township bridges, for which the county never was liable. This shows carelessness or incapacity.

6th.--In the face of the protest of Daniel Heckman, they paid \$5.00 more to Wierman Noll, a republican, to do some whitewashing at the jail than another man offered to do the same work. This is a small amount, but shows how they were farming their offices for political effect, at the expense of the public.

7th.--During the past week a leading citizen of Marion twp. told the writer a peculiar experience that he once had with one of these republican commissioners. In behalf of numerous citizens, he attended the appeals and asked to have a number of properties in that township reduced to an equitable basis of assessment. He made a strong appeal to the board, when finally one of them, Mr. Riddle, called him aside and intimated that if he was satisfied, as a favor, they would reduce the valuation of his farm, at which he grew indignant. That looks like making political valuations. Harry McDowell, of Abdera, is the man, and furnished this information for publication.

8th.--Thos. Fisher accepted a R. R. pass from the P. R. R., which has a large amount of property in this county that is subject to taxation. Mr. Fisher never explained to the public what he did, as a public official, to obtain this favor from a corporation.

9th.--Instead of conducting that office in a business-like way, these men forgot that the campaign was over when they took their oath of office and the department seemed to be nothing else than a political trading post the past three years. Instead of looking after the affairs of the county, they seemed to have their re-election more in view than anything else, and charged the county \$3.50 per day for doing it. If you like that style of business in the Commissioner's Office, it is your privilege to vote for what you like.

We could go on mentioning many other instances to show the shortcomings of these men, but enough has been said for the voter to understand the situation. This is also the first set of men who ever in this county refused the public the opportunity to inspect their records, and put a secret ban on their Minute Book. The very idea of public officials keeping things in secret, and especially the condition of their personal account with the county and the use of public funds, is more than the average taxpayer can afford to approve. If you think it advisable to fire men out of public office for such abuse of your confidence, and that a change is absolutely necessary, Messrs Daniel Heckman and Philip Meyer's election is the proper remedy.

SHERIFF: The democratic nominee is Cyrus Brumgart, of Millheim. He is a clean, upright, honorable man in every respect. He is industrious, frugal, sober, has no vicious habits. The office would not injure him one particle, and the people would have no fear in entrusting him with the position. Jacob Herman, of Lemont, is the man who would like to have the same position. We have no personal acquaintance with the gentleman, and can not speak from direct observation. Our advice to the voter is to inquire from parties who personally know Mr. Herman as to whether he is a man suitable for public office. Are his inclinations, disposition, habits, general conduct such as to merit your support? It is your duty to inquire before you cast your vote; there is a difference of opinion on such points, among people.

TREASURER: There is little discussion on this point; two competent men are after the position--W. T. Speer, the democratic nominee, and John K. Thompson, the republican. Mr. Speer is an old mechanic, a carpenter by trade, who has been compelled to lay aside the hammer and saw on account of advancing years and impaired health; Mr. Thompson is a traveling salesman, a young man just in the prime of life. Mr. Speer can not follow his trade, but could attend to the duties of that office to perfection; Mr. Thompson has a good position and makes a good salary traveling for a large wholesale grocery house.

REGISTER: Aleck Archey, of Pine Grove Mills, is the democratic nominee. He is a farmer, has taught school, held numerous township offices, is well educated, never held a county office in his life, is sober, has good habits, thoroughly capable; same can be said of the qualifications of his opponent, James B. Strohm, the republican candidate, except that he has had about nine years in public office--as Commissioner six years, and Clerk almost three years. Archey thinks it would be fair play for him to have a chance this time.

RECORDER: This office is one where fixed fees prevail. The candidates are: J. C. Harper, the democratic nominee, who is well known to almost every voter in the county. People who have business to transact in that office declare that all work left there receives prompt attention and is satisfactorily done. Mr. Harper is kind and obliging to the public and has the reputation of being a good official. Nelson Robb, now the Commissioners' Clerk, is aspiring for the same position on the republican ticket. Both gentlemen are well known to the people.

AUDITORS: This office is an important one to the people and they can't be too careful in their selections. They only act about one month each year, during January. Careful Auditors can prevent many illegal expenditures. The democratic nominees are Wm. H. Tibbens and John H. Beck, both competent men. The republicans have nominated Archibald Allison and E. H. Williams, both of whom are creditable nominees. Three will be chosen.

CORONER: Occasionally these men have important work. We can say that Dr. W. U. Irvin, the democratic nominee, is a man who ranks high in the medical profession. Dr. Peter W. Leitzell, of Gregg township, is the republican nominee; have no personal acquaintance with the gentleman.

BARNETT

GOT SCARED.

The Soldier Candidate Not So Brave in Action.

MILITARY IDOL DESPISED.

The Soldiers of the Famous 10th Say Barnett Was a Coward When the Bullets Began to Fly--Got Behind a Rice Dyke--A Disappointment to Politicians.

Leading Republican friends of the late gallant Colonel Hawkins, commander of the Tenth, are greatly incensed at the machine managers for clothing Barnett with the glory which they stole from the dead colonel. It has never been denied that Barnett is not a popular man with the people, and with the soldiers of the Tenth he was not only unpopular but a very much despised man. By these soldiers he is blamed for neglecting Colonel Hawkins when that officer was on his sick bed, and he is charged with showing the selfishness and haughtiness of the young upstart who is suddenly elevated to a position of command.

The great claims that are made for his bravery have received a set back by the charge that Barnett was actually a coward. The Philadelphia Record correspondents have interviewed several members of the Tenth regiment, all of whom are prominent in business or professional life and all of whom join in the endorsement of the following story as told by a young lawyer who was a member of Company I:

"At the battle of Guiguito, one of the hardest fights we had, on March 25, we men of Company I, from Greensburg and vicinity, were the last of the Pennsylvanians to cross the railroad bridge. When we were on the other side we saw Barnett crouching under shelter in a muddy little hollow. It might have been a half dried up little stream bed along one of the rice dykes, numerous there about. The rice dykes are little embankments to hold the water for the rice.

"Company I were performing their duty of supporting the rear of the regiment. There being awful heavy firing ahead, we pushed on and asked Barnett to tell us where to go. He waived his hand in the direction of the firing. The nearest danger to him was 200 yards in advance just then, and afterwards much further. We moved on and left him there. We had known him from the De La Loma church fight and other occasions to be 'cold-footed.' The worst name you could call a man in our regiment was 'cold-foot.'

"That night Hawkins, who from the first had been at the front in the thickest of the fight, asked where Barnett had been. 'I had to form the line myself!' exclaimed 'Pop,' whom everybody loved. The lieutenant colonel, to our great amusement, reported that he had 'brought up Company I.'

Other narratives from men of the Tenth, in corroboration of the alleged 'cold footedness' at Guiguito and elsewhere are forthcoming, with the names of the eye witnesses. The arrivals in the Philippines of newspapers containing a letter from Barnett to his law partner, Richard B. Scandrett, of Pittsburg, expressing desire to possess a long-ranged gun, was among the incidents prompting the introduction of a song into the regiment, with these stanzas:

O, here's to Jimmy of rice dyke fame:
With long range gun take steady aim:
When bullets whistle, jump into a drain,
And hide with Jimmy of rice-dyke fame.
Our long range Jim, so deep in the ground,
When called by the colonel, could not be found.
O, rice dyke Jim was safe and sound
In the rear, low lying behind a mound.

After the mustering out at San Francisco, when there was little or no fear of the lieutenant colonel, this song was sung by the Tenth's boys on the ferry-boat. In some cars, crossing the continent, and even on the trip to the Dewey reception in New York, they merrily repeated the singing of the historical doggerel.

A Wild Animal Hunter.

John Swope has killed 103 wildcats in Huntingdon county, four of this number having been killed since July. On Monday morning of last week Mr. Swope brought in three gray foxes, six minks, three skunks, five opossums and one coon. In 1896 the county paid this old trapper \$1,300 for scalps of trapped animals. In addition to this he realized a handsome sum for the hides, which he tans himself.

Went Back to Work.

The strike in the evaporator plant at Centre Hall, last week has been declared off, and the boys and girls went back to work again. They succeeded in securing a part concession to their demands.

---"Jolly Jake Herman is having a big time."--Gazette.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

Hail Columbia!
Pressed for work--cider.
Founded on a rock--the cradle.
Have their eyes peeled--potatoes.
All the stranded actor wants is a show.
Time even tells on the face of a clock.
One way to reduce rents is to sew them up.
The hotel without guests still has a host.

It is after you catch a disease that it runs.
Some men consider fly-fishing reel sport.
The little a man wants here below is a little more.

Hotel accommodations are inn conveniences.
You may praise a river, but it will run down itself.
Silence gives consent, but it doesn't give a cent.

Getting trusted is not always to a man's credit.
The geographer of all men should be worldly wise.
The genealogical tree is nothing if it isn't a pair tree.

The foot ball coach should be the kind without wheels.
A farmer says it goes against the grain to cut crop.

A finished gentleman is one some coquette has done up.
Last but not least--the one used by a St. Louis shoemaker.

Too many people are troubled with palpitation of the tongue.
The pickpocket takes most things easy, but "time" he takes hard.

Yarns about scaling mountains often sound like big fish stories.
Too many people in this world do things for the sake of an encore.

The horseless vehicle will do away with many a stable income.
Every man thinks he cuts a lot of ice when he gets a "skate" on.

Did women have to wash their hair when they wore waterfalls?
The patient has a fighting chance for his life when doctors disagree.

Some men refuse to marry because they have a horror of divorce.
People of ripe experience are not beyond getting green with envy.

An asylum for the blind need not necessarily be an unsightly place.
Wouldn't this world be a sweet place to live in if nobody raised cane?

The dog who chases his own tail tries his best to make both ends meet.
The upper crust of society is usually based upon the financial dough.

Some people do not find it much trouble to doctor up a lame excuse.
Dentists require lots of room. At least, they have achers to work on.

Some folks run away to get married and some run away to get unmarried.
An acrobat may be unable to appreciate a joke, yet he is quick to tumble.

Some women marry just to see what kind of fool husbands men will make.
True charity originates in the heart and escapes by way of the pocketbook.

A man is apt to show that he has been drinking by trying hard not to show it.
It's all right for the postman to joke a little if he doesn't carry things too far.

It's a wise employe whose opinion always coincides with that of his boss.
"I'm sure," said the needle, "I don't know why I do not look as neat as a pin."

When you hear a man say "business is business" he has just cheated somebody.
When some people feel run down they acquire the bicycle habit and run others down.

A head of hair is about the only thing that is equal to more than the sum of its parts.
Fortunately the average man overlooks a lot of sins he is capable of committing.

When you get to counting noses, there are certain ones that are always bound to turn up.
It is not always dissatisfaction that causes a carpenter to change his boarding place.

The father of seven marriageable daughters speaks of his parlor as a court-room.
It is said the Japanese never swear.

When a Jap gets mad he goes out and slams the door.
Noah was evidently in the pickling business--at least he filled the ark with preserved pairs.

The printer employs hands and when he embraces a girl his arms also are members of the press.
The man who shakes your hand the hardest may be trying to get his other one into your pocket.

Some men are so busy telling what they would do if they had an opportunity that the opportunity passes by unobserved.
"Jolly Jake Herman is having a big time."--Gazette.

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