

The Centre Democrat.
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 CHAS. R. KURTZ. }

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EDITORIAL.

MISTAKES OF McCURE.

Last week the Gazette gave special prominence, with elaborate comment, for a bitter article from the pen of Alex. K. McClure in which he renounces his connection with the Union party, promises his support for the election of Pennypacker for governor, repudiates Robt. E. Pattison, and hurls a lot of unfounded abuse at the democratic party in this state. For that reason we deem it appropriate to give a short review of "the man behind the gun."

Alex. K. McClure, the veteran editor, is pretty well known to the people of this state as a political brigand, an unprincipled, cunning old fox, who, like Quay, frequently parades in sheep's clothing as a reformer, and thus manages to deceive a few, who know him not. He is a man of rare ability, and we respect his literary attainments; but, unfortunately accompanying these, there is apparent a corresponding decline in the scale of depravity. Morally, his career will not bear close investigation; in public life, especially in Philadelphia, he has been a purchasable commodity in the political market. His influence and support are always cast with a view of participating in some public loot—there always must be a rake-off or McClure "won't play"—an instinct that is strongly developed from early life when he became an adept at the gaming table, and in his declining years, in the eventide of life, he is still said to be a habitue of the poker resorts famous in his city.

He is more popularly known as the editor of the once-famous Philadelphia Times, where his genius and ability for a time won for him national fame and fortune, but the depravity of his nature, from time to time, began to predominate as evidenced by the course of that paper. Vicious men and corrupt measures he championed with shameless, brazen effrontery. In Philadelphia politics, when campaigns opened, the common thought among politicians and the hoodlums was: "How much stuff will it take this year to buy McClure and his paper?" He was noted for his conspiracies with corrupt factions to gain control of the city finances, and it was a common occurrence to see him vehemently denounce men and principles one year that but a twelve months prior he had upheld. As a result, his paper lost the confidence it at first enjoyed with its readers, well thinking people discarded it. The masses soon learned to look upon its editor and his utterances with distrust. The result was that the paper lost circulation, its prestige was gone. It became a financial failure; for several years it went begging on the market for a purchaser and was sold as journalistic junk; could not win back the confidence of the public under new management, as the name of McClure clung to it as a stain; and was discontinued recently as a complete failure and hopeless wreck.

That is the story and reward of a notoriously corrupt, depraved, brilliant man—an unwritten chapter that truthfully should be incorporated when the biographer compiles the career of Alex. McClure.

This is the type of a man that suits the Gazette of this place to quote—a discarded, political freebooter, whose mispent life is another warning to young men that integrity and honor are the foundation of all true greatness, and that its absence harvests abject failure.

When men in private life shall follow in the footsteps of Alex. K. McClure, or in public thinking accept his teachings and practices as standards, then will our social fabric decay and the ship of state become a rotten, wormeaten derelict on a hopeless sea. We have no dread of such a calamity, as we consider McClure a political outcast, shunned by well thinking people, an evil example to a rising generation and a warning to all that "your sins will find you out."

It is appropriate that the utterances of McClure should be quoted in the Gazette, which is an open apologist of corruption in this state and a shameless champion of all that has been so demoralizing in public life.

FATE OF BAD MEN.

That there were bad men by the dozen in the last Legislature is too well recognized and too generally admitted to need argument.

How have the respective parties dealt with these men? Look at the record of the parties in dealing with the men who made themselves a stench in the nostrils of all decent people:

Higgins, the alleged Democratic senator from Schuylkill, urged on by Republican ringsters, had the gall to ask for a renomination. When the votes were counted he found that fewer than 300 voters out of 6,000 have any use for such men as he. No doubt every one of the 300 was either a Quay Republican or a Quay Democrat.

Galvin, the unspeakable wretch of the House from the same county, wanted another chance to stand for Quay, but he was given to understand that he would better keep the price of his infamy than to spend it in the vain hope of getting the support of decent men.

Garvin, the Adams county traitor, was anxious that the state should again have the benefit of his services, but couldn't find a man with so little regard for his self-respect as to present his name in the nominating convention.

Fake and Kain, of York, shared a similar fate. After Fake had been defeated for the nomination, he made application for admission to the York county bar. His knowledge of the law seemed sufficient but one of the examiners who is evidently endowed with a discriminating conscience, refused to sign the certificate on the ground that Fake's moral character is not such as a lawyer ought to possess. This examiner is right. A lawyer is supposed to be true to his client, but if a man will deliberately betray his state into the hands of its enemies, what might he do with a helpless client?

In Centre county, the famous John K. Thompson, republican hoodlum, was so despised that shame-faced he shrinks from the public, while the finger of scorn haunts him by day and by night. He knows the temper of the people and wisely refrained from asking a re-election.

Hon. William Allison, the other republican legislator from this county who did directly the opposite, whose name was not besmirched, whose honor or integrity were not shaken, was discarded for doing his duty manfully and courageously and James Strohm, a perpetual office seeker, was given his place. Mr. Allison was consistent; the republicans had no further use for him.

WHO IS HIBNER?

"The Bellefonte 'Republican' wants to know 'who and what D. E. Hibner is'?"

D. E. Hibner is the Democratic candidate for Congress in the new Twenty-first district. He is 40 years of age, honest, competent and one of the most progressive business men in the district.

At the age of 14 years he entered the hardware store of Long & Brady, in DuBois, as errand boy. By his own honest efforts he worked his way up until he finally became one of the owners of the largest hardware houses in the central part of the State, the firm being Hibner & Hoover.

Mr. Hibner is one of the foremost men of DuBois, always actively identified with everything tending to improve the town in any particular. His time, money and brains have at all times been subject to the call of his neighbors when the good of the community was the end desired.

The district may in the past have honored greater men with high office, men whose fame extended over a wider field, but no county in the district ever sent a better man into legislative halls to look after its interests. The Democratic party has no apologies to offer for its candidate. His record as a self-made, progressive, honest American citizen speaks for itself. He is able and willing to face the people and talk to them on the issues. He stands upon the platform, the man versus the Dollar.—Clearfield Republican.

"SHAMELESS APOLOGY."

"After Mr. Carnegie has built our libraries and Mr. Morgan has filled our art galleries it will be in order for Mr. Keene to do something for music and for Mr. Schwab to provide for the pleasures of the poor. Only the fool in his folly will inveigh against such wealth."

The above is a sample of republican argument; it is enough to convince a wooden Indian to give a warwhoop for tariff monopoly. Wealth is a good thing when acquired by legitimate means. Carnegie got his wealth by virtue of a tariff on iron and steel by which he could exact enormous profits from his product which the public finally paid. Carnegie's wealth, and of many others, is wealth wrongfully taken from the people. That is considered all right as long as Carnegie contributes to republican campaign funds to buy votes to elect republicans to office. The above quib we consider an insult to intelligence, and an apology for a system of public plunder. It is from the Gazette which is an open apologist and champion for bribery, crime and falsehood.

STROHM is a handy man to have in their party, he has no decided views on any subject, (except that he wants an office).

PENNYPACKER SELF-CONDEMNED

The light has been turned on and the people of Pennsylvania may now know the plain truth concerning Mr. Quay's latest confidence game. No fair-minded and patriotic citizen, no matter what his partisan or factional views, can read the remarkable story given in our news columns without surprise, indignation and shame. Here is calmly presented the cold facts that show Samuel W. Pennypacker to be utterly unworthy the confidence and support of the people of the great state he has so deeply discredited. Here is an indictment against which no successful defense can be made. It is shown, beyond all doubt, that again the autocratic head of the odious machine has put forth a candidate for governor who is the boss' very own. It must be clear to every voter that if this masquerading pretender would thus serve his would-be master before and after election as a candidate, if elected he would be under his absolute and degraded control. If this is done in the green tree, what would be done in the red?

If it be true, as has been so loudly claimed, that ex-Judge Pennypacker represents personal and family honor, professional and official probity, elevated public spirit, the case becomes all the more enigmatical from the standpoint of the good citizen who abhors the ways of political outlaws. It is pertinently asked, how could a man imbued with right ideas, enamored of pure ideals, desirous of maintaining the honor of the commonwealth, deliberately and ostentatiously become the public apologist for and defender and eulogist of Quayism and all that it stands for, and this, too, while holding a place supposed to be wholly removed from the influence of partisan politics?

Ex-Judge Pennypacker not only sees none of the multiplied and mountainous sins of Quayism; he even has the audacity to speak admiringly of him as "Pennsylvania's most distinguished statesman, whose fame is assured as one who has served his country well."

What a monstrous injustice to the long historic line of eminent publicists and pure patriots, from Benjamin Franklin to "Pig Iron" Kelley and the intrepid Randall, not one of whom would have been guilty of any of the manifold offenses against civic righteousness which have darkened the career of this political free-booter during the past 30 years. Such an unpardonable insult to the intelligence, patriotism and virtue of the people of Pennsylvania never was put forth. It should and will be resented at every fireside where there is abiding reverence for truth, patriotism and justice.

The machine candidate stands hopelessly self-condemned. According to his own words and acts, Pennypackerism and Quayism mean one and the same thing. Thus the supreme issue is presented. A vote for Pennypacker will justify be taken as meaning a vote of unqualified endorsement of Quayism, a declaration for its indefinite continuance in state, municipal and local government in Pennsylvania. There is no escape from this conclusion.

HOW IT LOOKS IN CLEARFIELD.

The Union party republicans of Clearfield county are greatly incensed over the action of the gang hirelings at the state convention in Philadelphia recently. Today every prominent Union party man is enthusiastically supporting Pattison and Guthrie. Before that convention met a large majority were undecided as to how they would vote in November. But the "rough-house" argument at that convention did the work. Republicans who never voted for a democrat for a state office in their lives are boldly proclaiming they will vote for Pattison and Guthrie and use all their influence between now and election to induce other republicans to do the same.

CAMPAIGN OPENS.

Tuesday and Thursday opened the campaign in this county, at Orange picnic. The first being republican day with Pennypacker and his Quay lieutenants present, to tell the people that "Pennsylvania has no ill worth mentioning," and that cousin Quay "was a greater man than Clay or Webster."

Thursday was democratic day, with Pattison and other leaders in attendance, who made it clear to the people that they needed Reform, and that Pennsylvania was the worse governed state in the Union. The farmers feel that they have been grievously humbugged and wronged by false promises and iniquitous machine legislation.

WHAT does Strohm's candidacy stand for? the honest voters of the party were for W. M. Allison. It is not likely that they would set him aside and set up another with the same views; the gang doesn't do things that way.

SCOOPED THE WHOLE SHOW.

General Hastings was strictly in it Tuesday, at the Grange Park, when the Republican caravan arrived; he was high muckey-muck, master of ceremonies, while his esteemed contemporaries, like Judge Love, Ed. Chambers, Wilse Fleming, John K. Thompson and others were not in the push. After the exercises the General cleverly huddled the whole business in carriages and steered them to his private residence where they were held as hostages, until the last moment for the departure of the train. No doubt Pennypacker, Penrose and Smith knew that there was another ex-Governor in town, as well as other representative citizens, who failed to pay their respects; but Hastings scooped the whole circus and made the other fellows feel like 30 cents.

Tuesday was Hasting's day, although he is sort of a prodigal in the ranks, the way he is cuttin' 'er loose, make some dizzy.

RECENTLY the Gazette turned its mud batteries on Sheriff Brungart and the last week on Kepler. Whom he will try to besmirch this week remains to be seen. Some may deem such things brilliant, others consider them amusing, but a vast majority are disgusted by it and some day the Gazette man will receive a terrible awakening for his unlicensed, vicious assaults upon men because they do not meet with his favor.

THE price of soft coal in Chicago has risen to \$9 a ton, as compared with \$3 75 on September 1. Anthracite is practically unobtainable, and is quoted by some dealers as high as \$25 a ton. The sudden advance in prices is attributed to the demand caused by the cold weather which, while not severe in itself, has aroused householders to a realization that their coal bins are empty. The coal trust has been working the miners as well as the consumers of coal.

MRS. EMMA McMULLEN—died Friday morning at her home at Hecla Park, in the fifty-ninth year of her age, of cancer of the stomach from which she suffered the past year. Mrs. McMullen was born at Hecla Furnace, and resided there ever since, with the exception of a short time when she lived in Bellefonte. Her husband, Mr. Ambrose McMullen, preceded her to the grave about eighteen years ago. She is survived by one daughter, Luella and two sons, Lawrence and Ambrose. Her maiden name was Emma Johnston and was the sister of Joel Johnston of our town. The following brothers are still living: Daniel of State College; Curtis, of Lock Haven; Peter, of Milton; Wilbur, of Illinois and Joel Johnston. Interment in the Catholic cemetery Monday.

THE republicans are insisting that prosperity is the issue, and that the laboring man is better off to-day than ever before; yet, according to the wholesale prices of various articles published by the United States department of labor, a bill of groceries and provisions which cost \$13.12 in 1895 could not be bought in 1900 for less than \$15.56. The Pennsylvania workman in 1896 was required to work 9.3-10 days to pay this little grocery bill, while in 1900 he had to work 10.5-10 days to pay the same bill.

So that even granting the contention of those who talk long and loudly about the increased wages received by the workman, when the other side of the account is entered and the balance is struck, the workman finds he is considerably worse off than when he received small wages.

MERRY DAY AT NITTANY.

A merry party assembled at Ex-Sheriff Schaeffer's at Nittany, Tuesday, in honor of Colonel Henry P. Best, of Port Arthur, Texas. Colonel Best has been visiting his birth place, and kindred and friends during the last month. The day passed most delightfully in happy reminiscence, anecdote and song. The feast was served on the lawn. The table was bountifully laden with the fruits of the orchard and garden.

The recitation by Miss Dornblaser were very much enjoyed by all. The vocal and instrumental music by Miss Helen Schaeffer and Miss Verna Allison added very much to the pleasure of the guests. Young and old coming led in merry making.

Colonel Best left Salons as a little lad, having resided in Illinois and Kansas, and is now a resident of the Lone Star state. He made a brilliant record in military service in the 60's, and is an enterprising, wide awake, useful citizen. Wherever his residence he finds many friends who cordially greet and welcome him to his native heath.

Among the company were Captain Andy H. Best, Mrs. Mary Taner, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. Kinley Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Virgie Toner, of Lock Haven; Mrs. E. T. Harter, Tylersville; Mrs. Wm. Knecht and Miss Lillian Knecht, Parvin; Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Schaeffer and Helen Schaeffer, Bellefonte; Miss Leah Early, Reading; Miss Dornblaser, Williamsport; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Beck, Misses Lily and Jennie Beck, Snydertown; Mrs. Mabel Swartz, Hablersburg; Mrs. Kate Allison and Miss Verna Allison.

The wish of all is to partake of many more similar events.

THE COMMANDING ISSUE.

Pennsylvania is about to enter upon a contest for political independence and regeneration that will be memorable in the annals of the times. The currents of public feeling to be noted in all parts of the state are deep and strong. It was thorough knowledge and appreciation of this fact which inspired the action of the controlling forces in the recent Republican convention. It was openly and significantly declared that no risks must be taken. Nevertheless, the situation already shows that even the best laid plans of the shrewdest political managers may go amiss, despite every effort to persuade the people that all is well. There is a rising tide of public suspicion that a confidence game is contemplated and an increasing purpose is manifest to know the truth and to act with vigorous independence and effect. There is to be a determined grappling once more with the forbidding forces in American politics which have so long made the commonwealth of Pennsylvania a reproach throughout the nation.

It is clear knowledge of this fact which has caused many citizens of the highest standing and influence, and in full sympathy with the Republican party on national issues, to openly declare their purpose to again sustain the cause of reform, as represented by the Democratic standard bearers in this state. Men like Henry C. Lea, the veteran reformer, and ex-Postmaster Hicks, of Philadelphia, have vigorously arraigned the Quay machine and repudiated the attempt to deceive the people through the nomination of a candidate for governor who seeks to cover with the cloak of personal respectability the multiplied sins of the most odious political combination the country has ever known.

The battle is against the same bosses and their ready tools that have so deeply wronged and disgraced the state. The lines are clearly drawn and the friends of honest politics and good government are everywhere rallying earnestly for a great victory at the polls in November next.

THE CROWNING CRIME

Gov. Pattison's Scathing Denunciation of Quay Healers in Philadelphia.

At the close of his speech at Reading Gov. Pattison thus referred to the riotous assault on the Union Party convention:

The right of free assemblage and free speech and unfettered action in connection with public affairs is a fundamental American principle. It was for this that the founders of the Republic fought from Lexington to Yorktown. It was to maintain this right that a half million lives were sacrificed in the struggle to save the Union. To seek to abridge or destroy this high privilege is to aim a deadly blow at self-government. But to the corrupt and tyrannical political autocrat of our time and his base hirelings nothing is sacred. Nothing is safe from their combined hostility. In order to carry out their own purposes they trample upon the laws, brutally override peaceful citizens and even murderously assail those who courageously declare their loyalty to law and order and manfully defend the rights guaranteed to every one by the constitution. They substitute the badge for the ballot, the blackjack for honest credentials. They scoff at decency and scorn righteous public criticism. They compel the independent citizen, who determines to act according to the dictates of his own conscience, to take his life in his hands when he goes to the convention hall or to the polls.

All this occurred in the city of Philadelphia yesterday, when law-abiding citizens from all parts of the state met in convention and sought rightfully to express the will of the people whom they represented.

We believe the times has come when the freemen of this great commonwealth will no longer submit to this degradation, to this consuming curse upon their state; when they will unite with heroic courage and invincible strength to strike down and crush forever the powers of darkness that have so long and so deeply disgraced Pennsylvania.

THOMAS C. PLATT says the republicans can "elect a yellow dog for governor of New York this year."

WHEN the last Republican County Convention was over a man from Penns valley upon hearing that James B. Strohm was again up for office exclaimed: "Great God! Is Strohm the only man the republicans have in Penns valley?" It looks that way.

THE republicans, by their legislation that bred the trusts and combinations of capital, have stirred up a big and unlooked for hornets nest. The people are becoming aroused with indignation over the trust prices for beef, iron and steel, coal strikes, and a dozen other wrongs that the masses are smarting under, in order that the rich may become richer and the poor sink into deeper poverty. Don't be fools and sustain these fellows when you go to the polls to vote in November—from negro slavery you are being rapidly driven to white slavery.

NEITHER SIDE TO CONTROVERSY IN COAL REGIONS WEAKENING.

Neither Side to Controversy in Coal Regions Weakening.

STONE AND MITCHELL CONFER

Governor and Labor Leader Discussed Means of Ending the Conflict—Both Sides Claim Advantage From Harrisburg Conference.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 12.—A conference was held at the executive mansion last night between Governor Stone, Senator William Flynn and M. K. McMullin, of Pittsburg; President Mitchell and District Presidents Duffy, Fahy and Nichols, of the United Mine Workers, for the purpose of discussing means of settling the anthracite coal strike. The conference was held at the suggestion of the governor, who has devised a plan by which he hopes to effect a settlement between the operators and miners without the necessity of an extra session of the legislature for the enactment of arbitration legislation.

The conference did not begin until long after midnight, owing to the late hour at which Mitchell and his associates arrived in Harrisburg from Philadelphia. The governor originally arranged for a meeting today with Mitchell, but the strike leader had an important engagement at Wilkesbarre today that must be filled, and he asked the governor to meet him last night, and the executive most cheerfully complied with his request.

Senator Flynn, aside from his political prominence in Pennsylvania, is one of the largest individual employers of labor, and he has never had a strike. Mr. McMullin is at the head of the American Window Glass Company. All the proceedings of the conference are withheld from the public, neither of the participants making a statement.

NINETEENTH WEEK OF STRIKE

Both Sides Firm as Ever—The End Not in Sight.

Shenandoah, Pa., Sept. 15.—Today the 15th week of the coal strike began. The reiteration by the coal presidents last week that no concessions would be made, and the resolutions passed by nearly all the local unions of the United Mine Workers, renewing their allegiance to their officers, and pledging themselves to continue the strike until concessions are granted, show that neither side to the controversy is weakening. All sorts of rumors have been put in circulation by the spokesmen of the operators, as well as of the strikers, both sides contending that the conference early Saturday morning between Governor Stone and John Mitchell and several of his lieutenants has resulted to their advantage.

From the operators comes the story that the conference proved a failure, in that the officials of the union were led to believe that Governor Stone was authorized to make a proposition looking toward settlement which did not materialize. The strikers, on the other hand, claim that a trump card is still to be played, which will win for them, Mitchell, Fahy, Nichols and the others present from this section refuse to give any information as to what transpired at Harrisburg, but some of the local leaders declare that legislation for the improvement of the workman's condition was the topic under discussion and some conclusions were arrived at.

The operators are conceding that the present miners' organization is the strongest yet known, and some of those who are in constant touch with the men acknowledge freely that the ranks are as unbroke now as at any time during the strike. They marvel at the tenacity of the strikers and wonder where the money comes from that is sustaining the strikers and their families. There does not appear to be any unusual scarcity of money in the coal regions, and it is now acknowledged by friends and foes alike that the miners are being well fed and kept from want by the relief and other funds raised for this purpose.

FATAL RIOT ON A TRAIN

Fight Between Negro Excursionists Resulted in One Death.

Dover, Del., Sept. 16.—A free-for-all fight among 30 or more negroes on the excursion train of the Queen Anne Railroad from Rehoboth, Del., to Queenstown, Md., occurred as the train was leaving Rehoboth. One colored man was shot, and he died when the train reached Denton, Md. At Hickman, Del., Fred Clifton, the conductor, had no control over the crowd, who threatened his life if he interfered. Windows were smashed and several persons were seriously injured.

The sheriff of Caroline county was telegraphed to meet the train at Hickman, but he had not arrived when the train left. The sheriff of Centreville, Md., was sent for, and he, with several deputies, took a special car between the Queen Anne road to Queenstown, where several arrests were made. The white passengers on the train fled to the baggage car for protection.

Morgan Buys Steamships.

London, Sept. 16.—A dispatch received by a news agency from Liverpool says that J. Pierpont Morgan has purchased from I. B. Ellerman, chairman of the Leyland line of steamers, five steamers engaged in trade between Antwerp and Montreal. It is understood, the dispatch says, that the vessels acquired by Mr. Morgan will be managed by the Leyland line.

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