

JUDGE MAYER'S FIRST ELECTION

The death of Judge Charles A. Mayer last week will recall to the minds of many of the older citizens the bitter contest which convulsed the old Clearfield-Centre-Clinton district when he was first elected, in October, 1868.

That year each of the three counties presented a Democratic candidate. Clearfield unaniously presented Judge G. R. Barrett, then presiding over the courts of the Carbon-Monroe-Pike district, although a resident of Clearfield.

In this district Judge Samuel Linn resigned in the spring of 1868 and Governor Geary appointed J. B. McNally, of Clearfield, to fill the vacancy until the succeeding January.

When the time came to present candidates the Democrats of this county called upon Judge Barrett to be their candidate and he agreed.

Centre county Democrats nominated the late Judge John H. Orvis, and Clinton named Charles A. Mayer.

The Clearfield county Democratic convention was held in July that year and Colonel Walter Barrett, Dr. T. J. Boyer and A. W. Walters were chosen judicial conferees with instructions to use all honorable means to secure the nomination of Judge G. R. Barrett in the district.

The conferees first met at Bellefonte and balloted several days without result. Adjournment was taken to meet in Clearfield, September 1.

At Clearfield a large number of ballots were taken resulting three each. At last the Centre and Clinton conferees withdrew and went back to Bellefonte. Clearfield refused to follow them.

This action caused great dissatisfaction in Clearfield county and a letter signed by upwards of three hundred of the most prominent Democrats of the county was sent to Judge Barrett asking him to allow the use of his name as an independent candidate.

After deliberation Judge Barrett acquiesced and his friends began an active campaign in his behalf.

In the meantime the republicans nominated Judge McNally. Party feeling ran very high and the fear of Republican success in a democratic district caused Judge Barrett to withdraw on September 30, a week before the election, then held the second Tuesday of October.

At the election Judge Mayer was successful carrying all three counties, his majority in the district being 2477. Clearfield furnished 990 of that number.

Some of the editorials appearing in the Republican during the weeks the conference was deadlocked and up until Judge Barrett withdrew, were extremely violent. They charged the Centre conferees with all kinds of sins and some of the names used were certainly close to the limit.—Clearfield Republican.

After a separation of ninety six years the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, sometimes referred to as the Northern church, and the Cumberland branch were formally reunited on 24, at the general assemblies in Des Moines. Amid great rejoicing the announcement was made in both general assemblies. The Cumberlanders, in session at Decatur, forthwith adjourned, terminating their existence as a separate church. The Southern Presbyterians still maintain their entity.

The resolution for union was adopted by the Cumberlanders Thursday. It came up in the Des Moines assembly last Thursday morning, and the most intensely dramatic scene of the long struggle for unity was enacted.

Moderator Hunter called for the affirmative vote on adoption of the resolution. As a man, it seemed, the commissioners rose, stamping and cheering. As they took their seats the negative vote was called for. A laugh went around, for it was believed the request was a mere formality. To the astonishment of the assembly, two commissioners arose. Pandemonium broke loose and it was feared for an instant that indignity would be offered the lonely men who opposed the union. They were Dr. William Laurie, of Bellefonte, Pa., and the Rev. Roger F. Cressey, of Jacksonville, Ill.

Dr. Laurie is a stalwart Scotchman and his personality dominated the convention. He said, as did his supporter, that it was a question for his conscience, and again cries to make the vote unanimous he insisted that the two negatives be recorded.

"What is your idea of a phenomenon?" "A phenomenon is a clerk who doesn't drop his pen the minute the clock strikes six."

CONVENTION ECHOES.

What the People of the Community Are Talking About Politically.

From the Howard, Pa., Hustler, May 18:

"There is reason in all matter, but when some of the credited leaders fail to see what is best for the party and wantonly disregard the wishes of the very element which for many years has been the backbone and sinew of the organization in the county, then truly the time has come for serious reflection.

"If the real workers are to be repeatedly turned aside for some who were never known to figure in getting out the vote, from whence does the party management expect to get its support?"

"As an instance in this connection let me refer to the Hon. John A. Daley, of Curtin township, who was a candidate for the Republican Legislative nomination. Mr. Daley has never been known to falter one iota in his Republicanism. He bared his noble breast to the foe when our country's flag was in peril, he came back after the civil strife was over and has been an honored citizen of Centre county ever since, following the honorable occupation of a farmer.

"Never did the party call on him for re-enforcements but what he was only too willing to render all possible assistance. This was not only for one year, two, three or a score even, but for the past forty years. He was a Republican in Centre county when it meant almost complete ostracism to belong and advocate the principles of the Republican party, and now, in his ripe age, he is mercilessly slaughtered by the very friends whom he helped to press forward into the front ranks.

"Ingratitude! That doesn't begin to express the feeling of the hundreds of Republican voters of the county; at such a rate of speed it will require but a few years more until there is nothing left of the Republican party in Centre county.

"The election next November on at least a portion of County ticket will plainly show that the voters of honest Republicanism think of throwing overboard the very people who helped to build up the organization to what it is today."

NEW DISTILLERIES.

Half a century ago the country had its distilleries in every nook and corner. Pennsylvania alone, in 20 by 3 miles, had upwards of twenty distilleries of which only one, Eby's at Woodward, is left.

The tax on spirits was low and whiskey was cheap. Every other farm had its "still." These have now largely vanished before a heavy internal revenue tax, although the moonshiner exists in some remote regions. As a result, Pennsylvania farmers no longer drive a load of rye to the owner of the distillery and carry away an equivalent in whiskey.

The passage of the free alcohol bill, says the Press, will tend to establish a brand new kind of distillery. This later crop will convert beets, potatoes and other vegetables into denatured alcohol, which possesses all the needed properties of a good fuel and a first-rate illuminant, without any of the elements of an intoxicant.

To turn a potato into alcohol is a cheap and easy task. It will be less expensive than the old method of turning rye into whiskey. For this reason there is likely to spring up on the farms of the United States a tremendous number of little distilleries which will do a more or less

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local business. This, provided the free alcohol bill becomes a law, which now seems likely.

FINE COMPANY FOR CHANDLER.

In being included in the number of those whom our "red-blooded" and impetuous President has stigmatized either directly or by implication as liars and falsifiers, ex-Senator Chandler finds himself in excellent and distinguished company. One of the company is Hon. Henry M. Whitney, of Boston, a gentleman whose veracity has never been impeached who, President Roosevelt declared, lied about a tariff conversation with him. John F. Wallace, formerly chief engineer of the Panama Commission, is another. Herbert W. Bowen, formerly Minister to Venezuela, is also in the President's category of liars. Chief among them is Alton B. Parker, late Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States, whose statements in regard to Republican campaign contributions by corporations were so hotly denounced as false by the President. These statements have been subsequently proved to have been absolutely correct; but that is a detail which has apparently escaped Mr. Roosevelt's notice, since he has not made the amende honorable incumbent under the circum-

stances upon any gentleman. With the foregoing illustrations before him of the Rooseveltian habit of prompt and reckless denunciation as liars and falsifiers of distinguished gentlemen who differ with the President on questions of fact, ex-Senator Chandler should not take the lie direct leveled at him too seriously.—The Portland (Me.) Argus.

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