

LEGAL LIGHT ON THE MUDDLE IN THE BALLOT.

Judges of the Supreme Court See No Relief From the Legislature.

VOTERS MUST PUT UP WITH BAKER'S LAW.

Justice Williams States Only the Official Ticket Will Be Accepted as Legal.

WEIGHT OF THE BALLOTS TOO MUCH FOR THE PEOPLE.

Some Attorneys Argue That Citizens Can't Be Disfranchised Under the Constitution.

George W. Guthrie Advises People to Vote Anyhow, if the Official Ballot Is Not at the Polls—He Would Indict an Election Board That Refused His Ticket—A Decision From Ohio to Support This Position—Major Brown Thinks the Courts Will Sustain an Honest Ballot Where the Intention Is Plain—He Calls the Law a Fraud and a Ridiculous Novelty—Chief Justice Paxson Doesn't Like the New Voting System.

The latest complications growing out of the Baker ballot law by which it is possible that a great many voters in the State will be disfranchised provoked considerable discussion yesterday. The sudden appearance of a rainbow in the skies without the sign of a cloud visible could have surprised the people more than this latest phase of the ballot muddle. It was pronounced by many as the climax of far-reaching jobbery that doctored a law designed to protect the voters.

It was beyond the comprehension of lay and legal minds that the preparation of the ballots for Pennsylvania should overtax the paper mills of the country and the job printers of the State. Men who had looked upon America and its citizens as equal to any emergency received a rude shock and would scarcely believe it, but there was no going back of the testimony given by the paper manufacturers and printers generally. The limit of time is too short, and the problem now is whether a remedy can be applied before the election or not.

Need for an Extra Session. The consensus of opinion is that an extra session of the Legislature should be called at once to amend the law or repeal it as the necessities of the times may demand. There is nothing in the State Constitution forbidding the Governor from calling the lawmakers together, but when the majority of Republicans think of the politics of Mr. Pattison, they shake their heads and remark sadly: "We can look for no hope from that quarter." Judge Fetterman was under the impression that a notice from 10 to 30 days in length must be given, but the Constitution disposes of this matter by stating "that the Governor can call an extra session of the Legislature at once on any extraordinary occasion," and most people feel that the present situation complies with this requirement of the law.

Chief Justice Paxson was appealed to yesterday to suggest a remedy. The Judge is opposed to the law, thinks there never was any necessity for it, and he rather enjoys the consternation of the people. He is disposed to let them wrestle with the voting job, and says frankly that nothing can be done before the election. He declined to discuss the legal questions involved, for he expects he will be called upon to give a decision in numerous cases that will no doubt arise.

As Chief Justice Paxson Views It. "Well," said the Chief Justice, as the subject was broached, "I have no objection to expressing my private opinion. I have been too busy lately to read the papers carefully and I am not very well posted, but in the situation as bad as reported? Can't the ballots be made smaller? Does the necessity exist for such a big blanket sheet?" It was explained that Secretary Harritt had decided the tickets must be 22 by 22 inches to meet the requirements of the law.

"Ah, I see," continued the Judge. "I never liked the law. The old ballot system was all right, and filled the bill nicely. I never took much stock in the cry of fraud, and I don't believe the change was justified by the facts. But if you want a law repeated, enforce it strictly. The people will know better after the election whether the Baker ballot system is a good thing or not. I don't think it is, but every man must decide that question for himself. I can see no remedy in sight, and the people must accept the situation the best they can. It is too late to call an extra session of the Legislature, and I don't believe Governor Pattison would do it anyhow. The Supreme Court can't take cognizance of the law. We must have something to go on, and there is nothing now on which to base a case. Voters must take the laws as they find them, and if they don't like them they have the power in their hands to repeal them."

Must Be Decided in Regular Order. "But isn't a law unconstitutional in itself that makes it impossible for citizens to vote?" was asked. "That is a legal question that would have to be determined. I don't want to say any more on that subject," replied the Chief Justice.

"Suppose legal voters, finding no ballots at the polls on election day, should prepare tickets of their own which clearly showed their intentions, would the State courts sustain such a ballot?" "Indeed, I can't tell. That would have to be decided also."

It was added that many lawyers held that

the right to vote was inherent and no law that made it impossible would stand, but Judge Paxson smiled grimly and said nothing. He could not be induced to discuss the legal features for good and obvious reasons. "There is no remedy in sight," he concluded, "and the people will have to put up with the law this time. But maybe the public is unduly alarmed and every citizen may yet enjoy an opportunity to vote."

The Chief Justice with other people was greatly surprised to learn that the printing facilities of the State are not sufficient to turn out a ballot. It is suggested that they would have to go to the large cities in the East and West for assistance.

Justice Williams sees no hope. Justice Williams held the same views as Chief Justice Paxson. He was very busy when seen, but stopped long enough to answer the questions asked. "It is too late," he said, "to convene the Legislature. That is out of the question, and certainly no remedy can come from the Supreme Court. Why, I was amazed when I heard what the weight of the ballots of the State would be. I had no idea the machinery of the law was so cumbersome."

When the Judge was asked if the courts would sustain a ballot cast under the old system at polls where regular tickets had not been provided, he replied quickly: "What does the law say? I do not remember exactly, but my recollection is that to make a ballot legal, it must be cast in compliance with all the requirements of the act. The Baker law specifies how the ballot must be prepared. All I can say is that the people must put up with the inconvenience and get the help they can from the large cities. Possibly enough ballots could be printed in other States to supply Pennsylvania."

AN INHERENT RIGHT.

Mr. Guthrie Claims Citizens Cannot Be Deprived of Their Votes by an Impossible Law—He Thinks the Courts Will Sustain an Honest Ballot.

George W. Guthrie has made a special study of election law, and he has been connected with a number of election cases. He hasn't any use for politicians who subvert laws for the good of the people, and he says the men who doctored the Baker ballot bill should be made to suffer for it. Mr. Guthrie doesn't look for a remedy from the Legislature, but takes a broad view of the difficulty.

"We are a patient and long-suffering community," he began. "The people are directly responsible for this muddle. They sent the men to the Legislature who made the law and thwarted a great reform. The bill, as originally prepared, was first class, but it was treacherously and criminally changed to make the reform system of voting odious. I suppose in the face of the facts the people will turn around and send back the men who are responsible for this cunningly contrived complication. "No two election decisions are alike, and it is hard to say what the courts will do in the case of a doubtful case. Voting is an inherent right. I have nothing to say about a law that makes it hard to vote, but one that renders this inherent right of citizenship null and void is a violation of the fundamental principles of the Constitution. It is more. It is equal to a revolution of that kind."

All Tickets Should Be Counted. "I claim that in spite of the Baker ballot law, should it be impossible to provide ballots, the entire ballot cast by the voter is his property. I would advise voters if the official ballot is at the polls to use it, but if it is not to prepare a ticket, even if it is a blank sheet of paper on which they have written the names of their candidates. Extra election boards refuse to accept it. I would indict the officers at once. I don't know how many courts in the State would ignore a vote that was legitimate and honestly made. The trouble is that if the ballot is refused it will probably be lost. This time, for it will be almost impossible to keep a record of them. I am speaking, of course, on the condition that the tickets can't be prepared in time for all the counties."

"An Ohio Sheriff failed to issue the election proclamation. An attempt was made to throw out the vote on the ground that all the requirements of the law had not been carried out. The Supreme Court decided, however, that the people could not be filched out of their just rights through the failure of an officer willfully or negligently to do his duty. Wouldn't the same line of argument apply to Pennsylvania? Surely the people cannot be deprived of their votes, because the machinery of a law is so complicated and cumbersome that the official machinery can't be repaired in time. The proposition is ridiculous."

Judge Jeremiah Black's Idea. "I remember when the new Constitution was being made Judge Jeremiah Black urged the adoption of oral voting, that is, people going to the polls and naming the candidates they preferred."

"Take the Florida case in 1876 when Hayes was elected. In Manatee county, I think that is the name, they had a law requiring the clerk of the court to send out lists of registered voters before the election, and the voters should be notified. The clerk resigned about the time he was to perform this work. The Governor refused to appoint a man in his stead, and the Supreme Court decided that the law was unconstitutional. Surely the grand Democratic possibilities hidden under the Baker law muddle in this State."

PREFERS THE OLD SYSTEM.

Major Brown Is Opposed to a Complicated Ballot Law—He Says It Should Be Simple Enough for a Child to Vote—Only One Remedy to Suggest.

Major A. M. Brown is disgusted also with the Baker ballot law. He called it a ridiculous novelty and a fraud. "I have a great deal," he said, "about a secret ballot. Why there is nothing to prevent a man from handing in an open ticket if he desires. We got along very well for 100 years under the old system, and I think it would have lasted for 100 more. All this talk about wholesale fraud in elections is nonsense. It is badly exaggerated. But suppose some fraud does exist, you can't enact laws to prevent men from being tricky. They will soon find some way to circumvent it, and this complicated and technical Baker law is a mistake. Why should we make it hard for citizens to vote? Lawyers differ in their opinions as to how the tickets should be voted. The ballot law ought to be simple enough so that a child can understand it. My opinion is that no Judge will turn down a vote simply because a citizen has blundered a little in making the proper marks. If the intention is plain, the court will sustain it. We shouldn't get away from common sense and the Republican head-quarters. No one of them had made the right marks. Mr. Lambie added that the instructions are too intricate for the average voter to understand."

an extra session of the Legislature. I don't think the time is too short to make the necessary amendments or to repeal the law. The Legislature can be convened at any time by the Governor. It is a question whether Mr. Pattison will issue a call or not."

THE LAWYERS DISAGREE.

Attorney Shiras Says Voters Can Write Their Ballots and Have Them Counted—Colonel Stone Says the Law Is Supreme and Must Be Obedied.

George Shiras III, when asked yesterday if he thought a voter could be denied his vote in case of the State's failure to provide him a legal ballot, said: "The Baker ballot law has been affirmed as constitutional by the Supreme Court, and wherever a ballot is provided that will have to be used and no other. It seems to me, and I think it would be sustained, that the fact of the State's being unable to furnish ballots could in no wise disfranchise a man. A man who cannot get a proper ballot has a right to express his choice upon a piece of paper in writing and then deposit it in the ballot box. Of course, the districts in which this kind of ballots is used will be contested, but I think upon appeal to the courts the vote would be declared legal. The failure of the State to supply the ballots amounts, in my mind, to a suspension of the act."

"The Baker ballot law would be a good thing if it had not been tampered with. It was warped to prove it obnoxious in the hope that the people would then cry for its repeal. In this regard the men who thought so were far at sea. The people will see the good and bad points in the law, and more than likely the latter will be eliminated at the next session of the Legislature. There is not much in the law that needs to be taken out. An act of a page and a half would be all that would be required to make the act a first-class one."

That for Independent Voters. "The independent voter has no show at all with this ballot. Just think of a voter who wishes to scratch anyone in the party having to make a cross after each name he votes and leave the ones he doesn't want. It would have been much easier and more simple for the voter to scratch out the names he was opposed to, and leave the names blank he desired to vote. It was the purpose to make it as difficult for the independent voter as possible. The party men can vote their ticket straight by making one cross opposite the name of their party. "The clause relating to a man's obtaining assistance in preparing his ballot is decidedly wrong in allowing only persons who are unable to read have someone help them, it gives any man the privilege of calling anyone to aid him. It is radically wrong and strikes at the foundation of a pure ballot."

"The only way to remove the possibility of any contests in the coming election, that is, if the State finds it is unable to supply sufficient ballots for all the voters, is for the Governor to call an extra session of the Legislature and repeal the act. Then we could go back to our old method. "I don't see why the ballot should be printed in enormous quantities. It may be printed in reasonable type, but I don't see the occasion for spreading the names out over so much space."

Points to the Law. Colonel Stone takes a different view of the matter from Mr. Shiras. He said: "If the State fails to provide enough ballots, the men who do not get them will not be permitted to vote. It is the same as a man giving the excuse that he was caught in a rainstorm and couldn't get to the polls at the time. The law says there is no possibility of a voter getting his ballot into the box without it is the legal one, for such action would be setting aside the Baker ballot law, and this has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, so there is no getting over it. I think the law is a bundle of incongruities and mistakes and it will be repealed at the next session of the Legislature. It means the obnoxious parts of it. It was made purely for party and the voter was not taken into consideration. The independent voter was an unconsidered quantity."

Both Chairmen Perturbed. Reeder and Wright Fearful of the Result to Their Campaigns. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—The printing of the ballot in time for distribution to the election officers was again to-day the subject of conversation by politicians. The size surprises all classes, and the decision that it will be impossible to obtain the quantity of the kind of paper required makes many fear that some counties at least will be without the ballots on the morning of the election. It was said to-day that it is now known what the size of the ticket ought to be. The County Commissioners can go on by employing printers to do the work, and that arrangements can be made for procuring the paper. It is held that there is no need for them to wait for the certification of the nomination by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, as much can be done in the meantime.

Chairman Reeder, of the Republican, and Chairman Wright, of the Democratic, State Committees, as well as the two chairmen are much concerned as to the outlook. They realize that if nothing is done until the County Commissioners receive the certificates of nomination from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, there will be trouble, and they fear the six days allowed for the work will not be sufficient time. Chairman Reeder is confident it would be impossible to have the ballots printed and ready for distribution on the fourth of November.

THE LAW TOO INTRICATE.

Mr. Lambie Says the Remedy Lies With the Legislature. John S. Lambie said that he had read the reports in THE DISPATCH about the possible disfranchisement of voters with great alarm. He had received an inkling of the trouble from County Commissioner Mercer several days ago, but he had no idea it was so serious. He is opposed to the law, and says the remedy lies with the Legislature. He advocates the calling of an extra session to repeal the act.

Mr. Lambie pays considerable attention to elections. He claims that under the old system the ballot was as secret as it is now, the law did not deprive the voter of his name on the ticket. He expects that in the coming election a great many ballots will be thrown out because not marked properly. Yesterday morning he watched three lawyers vote at the Republican headquarters. None of them had made the right marks. Mr. Lambie added that the instructions are too intricate for the average voter to understand."

Wants a Smaller Ballot. Chairman Reeder Suggests How the Ticket Can Be Reduced in Size. HARRISBURG, Oct. 7.—There is a possibility of another change in the form of ballot now being printed by the State printer in order to facilitate the printing of the ballots. A long telegram was received at the State Department this evening from Chairman Reeder asking the Secretary to decrease the size.

To do this it will be necessary to place the Presidential electors and the names of the candidates in two columns instead of one, as in the present form. Bridging the tickets

can be made three inches shorter and two inches wider, or 24x40, instead of 22x25, as now.

ONLY TWO FEET LONG.

Indiana's Ballot Not Half as Bulky as That in Pennsylvania.

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 7.—Beginning to-day, under the direction of their State committee, the Republicans and Democrats will carry on schools of instruction in every voting precinct of the State. Within the next week several tons of ballots will be sent out. While each committee has prepared its own sample ballot, the ballots and instructions thereon are the same. Neither party furnishes information as to how to vote a mixed ticket. The committees fear that there will be a good deal of confusion in voting under the new law, as it is the first Presidential election since it was enacted. This year there will be two ballot boxes and two ballots to be voted. One box, painted red, will be for the State ballot, which will be on red paper, and the other box, painted white, will be for the local ballot. The law requires that the ballots be folded separately. The State tickets, containing the names of the Presidential electors also, are over two feet in length.

NO CHANGE OF LAW NEEDED. Governor Pattison Says the Legislature Won't Be Asked to Meet. HARRISBURG, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—Governor Pattison was asked to-night if it was possible to call an extra session of the Legislature to repeal the Baker ballot reform law in view of the complications which have arisen in consequence of the act. The Governor replied: "There is no occasion for an extra session of the Legislature. The Baker ballot law passed by a very large majority in both branches of the Legislature. It was enacted in obedience to a very decided public sentiment. The press almost without exception, approved of it. If as earnest an effort were made to enforce it as there is a disposition to find fault with it there would be no trouble in carrying out the law. Amendments may be found to be necessary in the future, but they will be in the line of the present legislation."

A CHANGE EXPECTED. The State Department May Send Out a Less Widely Voting Sheet. HARRISBURG, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—It is highly probable that another ballot will be sent out from the State Department less widely than the one issued a few days ago.

A HERMIT PHILANTHROPIST. He Lives on Long Island, and Is a Crank on Fresh Air. NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—News comes from London that "Thomas Hodgkins, of New York, has given \$200,000 to the Royal Institution, for a scientific research. About a year ago Mr. Hodgkins gave \$200,000 to the Smithsonian Institution. Half of this was given without condition. The other half was to be devoted to the distribution of information upon the subject of atmospheric air in its relation to the physical and intellectual welfare of mankind. Mr. Hodgkins has lived at Setonack, L. I., for about 30 years, in a farm house of dilapidated exterior and plain, even scanty, furniture. He sits all day in a certain room, the window of which is open summer and winter. His hobby is fresh air, and on railroad journeys—which he does not often take—he is furnished with an arrangement that he can put it outside the car window, the other end inclosing his mouth and nostrils. He thus breathes nothing but outside air, wherever he may be. Mr. Hodgkins is about 90 years of age. His large surplus of farm products is never sold, but is given to those who need and are deserving. WOMEN'S exclusion from a medical course of a Washington University and the reasons in THE DISPATCH to-morrow.

AN INVESTIGATION NEEDED. Terrible Treatment of Insane Patients Alleged at Philadelphia. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—Two members of the State Board of Charities, Dr. Thomas G. Morton, of this city, and James B. Scott, of Pittsburg, to-day presented two petitions to Judge Fell, asking for an investigation of the condition and treatment of insane prisoners in the insane penitentiary here. The petitioners allege that John Clark, a prisoner who they believe is insane, was found September 30, in the yard of the prison, confined in a wooden box 3 1/2 feet in width and height, and long enough to hold his extended body, apparently without means of ventilation, other than a door at one end which was fastened by a staple. They further declare that Clark was nude, with the exception of a ragged jacket, and that his arms were pinioned by a waist strap, but the two wagon officers nearly fainted when they saw what they were expected to carry out. They summoned five other officers and managed to get the woman on a stretcher. Then every bluecoat tugged until he was black in the face and his eyes hung out, but they could not budge the woman. Several lusty citizens were called in and after a deal of pulling, hauling and driving the woman was placed in the patrol wagon. She filled it completely and the officers had to hang on as best they could. She was finally placed in bed in the hospital after another desperate struggle. She is suffering from elephantiasis and may die.

SHE FILLED THE WAGON. Five Policemen Take 600 Pounds of Human Flesh to a Hospital. CHICAGO, Oct. 7.—Susie Conrad, who weighs 600 pounds and who has been on exhibition in a dime museum, became ill to-day and it was decided to remove her to the hospital. A call was received by the patrol wagon, but the two wagon officers nearly fainted when they saw what they were expected to carry out. They summoned five other officers and managed to get the woman on a stretcher. Then every bluecoat tugged until he was black in the face and his eyes hung out, but they could not budge the woman. Several lusty citizens were called in and after a deal of pulling, hauling and driving the woman was placed in the patrol wagon. She filled it completely and the officers had to hang on as best they could. She was finally placed in bed in the hospital after another desperate struggle. She is suffering from elephantiasis and may die.

GRACE VOTED DOWN. The Anti-Snappers Will Run a Third Ticket in New York. NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—The Anti-Snapper organization to-night voted ex-Mayor Grace down and will run a third local ticket. It is reported that Mr. Grace, in behalf of himself and the anti-snapper organization, to-day made a contribution to the Democratic national campaign fund of \$100,000.

SULLIVAN was started and overworked when he met Corbett according to his signed report, first published in THE DISPATCH to-morrow.

Another Short-Termmer Goes. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—The Order of Vests, one of the many short-term orders, made an assignment to-day.



KEEP HIM OUT!

MITCHELL A CONVICT.

The English Pugilist Refused the Option of a Fine Which Admitted Friends Would Pay.

He Becomes Obstreperous in Court and Is Often Called Down.

PROVED TO BE A VICIOUS CUSTOMER

LONDON, Oct. 7.—Charles Mitchell, the pugilist, was to-day convicted on the charge of recently assaulting an old man named Salvage, and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment at hard labor. He took an appeal, and his counsel asked for him, which was refused. When Mitchell was first arraigned Wednesday it was developed that he had tried to square matters with his victim by giving him £10, which Salvage accepted. The magistrate remarked that this was a most improper proceeding, and adjourned the case until to-day to allow of inquiry. In court to-day Mitchell's counsel endeavored to excuse the action of his client. He said that when he heard of the attempt to settle the case by paying a compensation he told Mitchell that it was a very improper thing to do. In sentencing Mitchell, the magistrate said he would not give him the option of paying a fine, which his friends would pay and which the prisoner would treat with contempt. Mitchell left the dock, protesting that witnesses had not been called in his behalf, adding, "Do you call this justice?" The magistrate sternly said to the court officers: "Remove that man."

The Pugilist Abusive in Court. Among those who testified against Mitchell was an inspector of police, who said there had been previous convictions against the prisoner. He added that Mitchell was a most dangerous man. While the evidence was being given to support the charge against him Mitchell became very excited and abusive. He called one witness a liar, but was promptly suppressed by the court. When Mitchell went to court Wednesday he drove ostentatiously to Bow street in a hansom. A crowd was waiting for him and he was vigorously booed. He was apprised this morning that another crowd was waiting to receive him with hoots and hisses, and to escape that sort of a demonstration he dodged quietly into court on foot from Longacre. The men belonging to Mitchell's set who at first thought he would be discharged on payment of a fine, became cognizant of the turn affairs had taken and employed a leading barrister, Mr. Grain, to defend him. Under Mr. Grain's advice Mitchell dropped his pseudonym of Charles Smith and appeared under his own name. Pony Moore, his father-in-law, accompanied him to court. Not a Stranger to Police Courts. Several convictions for assaults were proved against Mitchell, and these were given by Inspector Richards, of Scotland Yard, who testified as to how Mitchell had quarreled with a man at the Criterion bar and had tried to stab him. He would have stabbed him had not the people standing around prevented him. "Did he go toward the man?" the magistrate asked. Inspector Richards replied: "Yes, he went for him with a knife. Mitchell then subsided and Inspector Richards proceeded with his testimony. He said he knew the prisoner was one of the most dangerous men in London. Mitchell no Longer a Prize Fighter. Mr. Grain pleaded that Mitchell had abandoned the profession of pugilism. He said the charge arose from his interfering to prevent a drunken man from being ill-treated. He begged the magistrate to spare Mitchell the indignity of again placing him in the dock to stand trial. The court then proceeded to sentence Mitchell. When he had heard the sentence, Mitchell said: "Are you going to hear my witnesses? If there is no one to speak for me I must speak for myself. Is this a British court of justice?" "Be quiet," shouted Mr. Grain, indignantly with the action and words of his client. "Keep quiet, Charley, don't say a word," said Pony Moore. Mitchell then subsided and Inspector Richards proceeded with his testimony. He said he knew the prisoner was one of the most dangerous men in London.

MRS. HARRISON UNCHANGED. Message With Oil Now Thought to Be of a Soothing Effect. WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Last night was a comparatively restful one for Mrs. Harrison and the dawn of another day found her more as she was yesterday. To-day no unfavorable symptoms manifested themselves and she was quite comfortable, sleeping a good portion of the time. She took the usual amount of nourishment. One part of Mrs. Harrison's treatment the past few days which is thought to have a soothing and restful effect, is massage with oil, a not infrequent and generally successful method of bringing back strength to an enfeebled constitution. It is especially useful where the nervous symptoms are as manifest as in Mrs. Harrison's case. There is no perceptible change in her condition to-night.

ASSAULT IN A COURTROOM. A Scranton Merchant Knocks Down a Brother Merchant With a Club. SCRANTON, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—Charles Lewin, a merchant of this city, was held under \$1,000 bail this afternoon, charged with a murderous assault upon Louis Siff, another merchant. Siff had been arrested and taken before the Alderman on a charge of assault sworn out by Lewin. At the hearing Siff reflected on his enemy's character. Lewin caught up a policeman's club, sprang at Siff and brought him to the floor with a murderous blow. An ugly quarrel was cut in the man's head. Consciousness of the brain has set in, and he may not recover.

GHOSTS in a well are exciting a sensation of Virginia. Read the story in THE DISPATCH to-morrow.

How an Alliance Man Ended It. ALLIANCE, Oct. 7.—[Special.]—Philip Zeigler, 70 years old, a wealthy resident of this city, was found dead in his bed this morning. It is supposed to be a case of suicide following domestic troubles, in consequence of which he threatened to "send it" before going to bed last night.

Strangled to Death by a Window. READING, Pa., Oct. 7.—During the absence of his parents from home last night, at Fleetwood, this county, Eugene Markel, aged 6, tried to get into the house by way of the window. The cash fell on his head, and he was found in that position several hours later, strangled to death.

A HUGE PLOT TO STEAL A STATE.

Chairman Reeder Declares That Is What the Democrats Intended

BY THE BALLOT MUDDLE.

His Informant Backs Up the Sensation With an Affidavit.

The Republican Chairman Proposes to Change the Form of the Ticket So That More Printing Presses Can Be Employed—How the Alleged Conspiracy Was Given Away—State Superintendent of Printing Grier Accused of Confiding the Secret to a Republican by Mistake—Democrats Were to Have Been Posted and Republicans Left Out in the Cold—Senator Quay Smiles Amusedly at the Charges of the Chairman.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—Republican State Chairman Reeder to-day discovered an alleged conspiracy by which the Pennsylvania vote is to be turned over to Mr. Cleveland, and lost no time in making it known.

The party who gave the conspiracy away is Colonel William Hayes Grier, State Superintendent of Public Printing. The party to whom he gave it is A. Nevin Pomeroy, editor of the Chambersburg Repository, and a Republican formerly in the State Department.

How Pomeroy brought out this delightful sensation is best told in a letter to General Reeder. It was during a visit to Harrisburg Thursday evening when Hayes Grier met him, mistaking him for a clerk "on the Hill," and let the great secret loose. Colonel Grier said in effect that the ballots were to be held back to October 25, and no notification would be sent out to Republican County Commissioners. In the meantime all Democratic counties would be looked after. Their orders to Public Printer Edwin K. Meyers would receive first attention, and by a series of studied delays, the 23 by 22 official size being the leading one, Republican counties would be ignored.

How the Great Secret Leaked Out. This valuable prize was given to Mr. Pomeroy as a great secret. Pomeroy says that Grier's mistake alone made the discovery. "You are one of us," said Grier, "and know how to keep it." Pomeroy immediately denied his classification as a Democrat, and his denial takes the form of an affidavit, which he came all the way to this city to make, near midnight. Here is the affidavit: A. Nevin Pomeroy, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: That he is a resident of Chambersburg, in the county of Franklin, State of Pennsylvania, and is the editor and proprietor of the weekly Franklin Repository, a daily and weekly journal published in that borough; that on the 6th day of October deponent was in the city of Harrisburg, and was met by W. Hayes Grier, Superintendent of Public Printing, who evidently mistook deponent for a clerk in the county State Department, whom deponent is said to resemble. The said Grier congratulated deponent on the good "you are doing in the State Department," and then he read me a letter from William H. Harritt, Secretary of the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania. In this letter said Grier stated that the ballot would be 22 inches wide by 22 inches long, and that on October deponent was in the city of the Commonwealth, would hold it back until October 25 before officially certifying it to the various County Commissioners, as provided in the Baker ballot bill, which requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to certify nominations to the County Commissioners at least ten days prior to election, which delay would prevent the Republican counties from getting the tickets in time to have ballots printed.

In the said letter the said Grier further urged the said Chairman Wright to cause personal letters to be written to all the County Commissioners in Democratic counties, requesting them to make arrangements with E. K. Meyers, Democratic State Printer, to have their orders filled for ballots as once, and they would be given the Preference, as State Printer Meyers had made arrangements with all the large printing offices to print tickets for Democratic counties only, and that, as the country printing offices had not the facilities to print the tickets in its presence, the Republican counties would be prevented from getting any tickets, and that the State could thus be carried for the Democratic party. Deponent thereupon asked said Grier what effect this would have in the Republican counties of the State, to which said Grier replied: "If we can prevent the Republican County Commissioners from getting their tickets printed they cannot hold any election. Mr. Harritt says special elections can be ordered afterward for county officers, but the national and State elections will then be over, and Pennsylvania carried for Cleveland." The above is the substance of the conversation which deponent had with said Grier, and as deponent parted from him said Grier remarked: "Keep up the good work in your department, and our scheme will go through all right."

General Reeder Is Very Indignant. In commenting upon Mr. Pomeroy's affidavit General Reeder said this evening "The disclosures made by Mr. Pomeroy confirm suspicions which I have entertained for more than a week, that there has been some political motive back of the very peculiar behavior of the officials connected with the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. When the Secretary of the Commonwealth first sent out forms for ballots for the information of voters, one was prepared which was most obviously contrary to the requirements of the law, and it required some days of earnest effort before a hearing could be obtained at which to submit the objections to that form. Had that ballot been used according to the instructions printed thereon by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the voters of the State casting straight Republican votes would not have been counted as voting for members of Congress, Senators or members of the Legislature. "When the second ballot was given out, containing three columns—Republican,

Democratic and Prohibitionist—was given out, it was found that the Republican counties would not have received their tickets in time to have ballots printed. This was a deliberate attempt to carry the State for Cleveland."

Deponent thereupon asked said Grier what effect this would have in the Republican counties of the State, to which said Grier replied: "If we can prevent the Republican County Commissioners from getting their tickets printed they cannot hold any election. Mr. Harritt says special elections can be ordered afterward for county officers, but the national and State elections will then be over, and Pennsylvania carried for Cleveland." The above is the substance of the conversation which deponent had with said Grier, and as deponent parted from him said Grier remarked: "Keep up the good work in your department, and our scheme will go through all right."

General Reeder Is Very Indignant. In commenting upon Mr. Pomeroy's affidavit General Reeder said this evening "The disclosures made by Mr. Pomeroy confirm suspicions which I have entertained for more than a week, that there has been some political motive back of the very peculiar behavior of the officials connected with the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. When the Secretary of the Commonwealth first sent out forms for ballots for the information of voters, one was prepared which was most obviously contrary to the requirements of the law, and it required some days of earnest effort before a hearing could be obtained at which to submit the objections to that form. Had that ballot been used according to the instructions printed thereon by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the voters of the State casting straight Republican votes would not have been counted as voting for members of Congress, Senators or members of the Legislature. "When the second ballot was given out, containing three columns—Republican,

Democratic and Prohibitionist—was given out, it was found that the Republican counties would not have received their tickets in time to have ballots printed. This was a deliberate attempt to carry the State for Cleveland."