Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1869.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET

FOR GOVERNOR.

Gen. JOHN W. GEARY,
of Cumberland County.

JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT.

Hon. HENRY W. WILLIAMS,
of Allegheny County.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—To our Philadelphia patrons and advertisers. We have entered into arrangements with H. Wilson McArthur, Esq., Attorney-at-Law, 725 Walnut street, Philadelphia, to attend to the collection of our bills for subscription and advertising in that city, and we hereby give notice that Mr. McArthur's receipts will be recognized and will be received duly as for all monies paid him on our account.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Newspapers cannot be published without money; and publishers have too often for their own pecuniary comfort to remind their subscribers of this overlooked fact.

We have again by way of reminder, enclosed bills for subscription in to-days issue to a number of subscribers, and would request a prompt response. Those who have already received bills, and all knowing themselves indebted to us, will please give the above notice their early attention.

CANDIDATES.

☞WE are authorized to announce Lieut. CHAS. E. BECK as a candidate for the office of Register, subject to the action of the County Republican Convention. 33-tf

☞WE would recommend FRANKLIN KEARSLEY, of East Hanover, as a candidate suitable for the office of Treasurer, subject to the action of the County Republican Convention. MANY VOTERS.
Port Carbon, August 14, '69 33-2t

☞WE are authorized to announce JOHN HOLMES (of Mt. Clair, as a candidate for the office of Recorder, subject to the action of the County Republican Convention. 34-2t

☞I HEREBY announce myself for RECORDER, subject to the action of the Republican County Convention. CHAS. A. GLENN.
August 21, '69. 34-2t

☞TO THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—GENTLEMEN:—I offer myself as a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention.
Aug 21, 1869. 34-3t Col. DANIEL NAGLE.

☞TREASURER.—The undersigned offers himself as a candidate for Treasurer, subject to the action of the Republican County Convention.
M. H. REILLY.
Pottsville, August 20, 1869. 34-3t

The Assessor desires us to state that he can be found at the Exchange Hotel, (late Union) Centre street, by those who wish to register their names as voters.

The publishers of the Reading Evening Dispatch have started a weekly newspaper in connection with their daily. They have the ability and enterprise to make the project an entire success, and such a result we most heartily wish them.

It is astonishing to note the success which has attended the use of Maise's Blood Purifying Agent. It is rapidly working its way into public favor. We recommend it to all as one of the most effectual remedies for diseases arising from impurity of the blood. See advertisement.

That very and festive young un, Commodore Vanderbilt, who surprised a number of his friends lately, by marrying a young lady of Mobile, Miss Crawford, aged 31, was born May 27, 1794, and he is therefore in his seventy-sixth year. His first wife has been dead a year.

In looking over the accounts of the Presidential movements since he was here last week, we find no reason to change the opinion that Pottsville was especially honored by him. We find that he delivered the longest speech here; that he kissed more ladies and children and shook more hands than at any other place he has visited. And we believe that his reception was about the warmest.

Mr. JOHN PARKER.—A communication which appeared in last week's JOURNAL, from Mahanoy City, stating that Mr. Parker's unexceptionable social position being a candidate before the Republican Convention for Assembly, was not authorized by Mr. Parker. We have authority for stating, that Mr. Parker would accept a nomination, and serve if elected. We have already expressed our opinion that he would make an excellent representative, for he is both capable and honest.

DEMOCRATIC LOVE FOR WORKINGMEN.—The New York Journal of Commerce, a leading Democratic organ, spares wrath at the high price of coal, and urges the Pennsylvania authorities to send a military force to the mining regions, in order to bring the miners to their senses. The simplicity involved in the suggestion when it is considered that our miners are guilty of no lawless acts, is only equalled by its vindictive spirit toward workingmen. Truly, the Democracy are "honig" friends of the workingmen.

ANOTHER REPUTATION OF THE STATE DEBT.—Gov. Geary's Administration announced its readiness to pay off another million of dollars of the State debt. In the Harrisburg *Telegraph* of Saturday, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund advertise that sealed bids will be received for the redemption of one million dollars of the loan of the Commonwealth, due July 1st, 1870, until 12 o'clock, noon, of October 1, 1861. Under no Democratic Administration for many years, was the State debt ever reduced one cent—but invariably augmented. Under Curtin's and Geary's Administration the debt has been cut up millions of dollars of State debt have been wiped out.

THE ablest exposition of the political career of Asa Packer, that we have seen so far in the campaign, is contained in the speech of Hon. J. T. Bingham of Pittsburgh, delivered before the Republican County meeting of Berks on the 5th instant. It is calm, searching, scathing, and shows conclusively that he is entirely unfit and unworthy to become Governor of Pennsylvania. There is no reference to his private character, except in terms of respect, an attitude we are pleased to see generally taken by the Republican press of the State, and one which might advantageously be taken by the Democratic press, which in the main depends upon personal abuse and vituperation of Republican candidates, in lieu of argument on principles.

Mr. Bingham's address is really so admirable, that we have decided to lay it before our readers, and invite for it their careful and considerate perusal. It will be found elsewhere in to-day's JOURNAL.

COAL COMPANIES.

It has been stated that Incorporated Companies principally mine coal in England.—This is a mistake. The coal is all mined by individuals and firms, not incorporated, but associated together the same as commercial firms. Incorporated Coal Companies did exist in England, but there, like everywhere else, the two cannot exist together for any length of time on the same looting without one or the other going under—and the companies had to succumb. Such has been the case in this country in nearly all the Coal Regions, where the two existed together, except in the Lackawanna Region, where three companies have mining and transportating privileges combined. They own their lines of transportation, and thus effectually check the progress of individual enterprise in that section by compelling others either to abandon the business or sell the coal to the companies on their own terms. But in all the other regions where companies, not controlling the outlets to market, have succumbed to individual enterprise; they have either ceased mining altogether, or leased the working of the mines to individuals, who mine the coal and also sell it, except in one or two cases, where the companies sell it themselves. Such is the case this year with the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. Last year individuals not only mined, but sold the large bulk of their product, and nearly all the other companies in that region are but little more than individual operators. So in this Region; of the large number of coal mining companies organized during the progress of the rebellion, scarcely any exist as a company now, but have fallen into the hands of and are worked by individuals. From the nature of companies is either to rule or ruin, and where individuals stand on the same footing with them as to outlets, the latter are sure to triumph in the end, not only in this country but everywhere else. If the three companies in the Lackawanna Region did not own and control the outlets to market, they would have gone under long ago, before the competition of individual enterprise in the mining business; but their exclusive principles have saved them, and they are likely to control the whole upper portion of the Wyoming Coal Basin. The lower portion have outlets via the Lehigh and to the South, independent of these companies.—None but a thoughtful person can calculate the injury these companies have caused to the coal trade of Pennsylvania. The Delaware and Hudson Company is not so much to be censured as the others, but the great fight gotten up between this Company and the Pennsylvania Company some years ago, on the subject of transportation on the canal, damaged the coal trade to such an extent, that the Legislature of our State was invoked at one time to terminate the quarrel; and the latter company seems to have pursued a singularly erratic course ever since in hostility to the others. But the introduction of Anthracite coal by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company, has been the greatest curse that was ever inflicted upon the trade; it has converted one of the most lucrative trades in the country, which ought to be more regular in prices than almost any other, into a complete system of speculation and direct swindling, and is engendering a spirit of recklessness in all the ramifications of the trade, that is beginning to be felt in all the coal regions. This company generally sells 80,000 tons a month by auction, while the product of all the Anthracite regions for a month averages from 1,200,000 to 1,350,000 tons. The sale of this 80,000 tons regulates the price of the whole product for the month; and places it in the power of a few unprincipled speculators, some of whom it is strongly suspected are interested in the company, backed by the press of that city, a portion of which can be used for almost any purpose, to depress the prices below the cost of production whenever it suits their purposes, or run it up whenever they have an opportunity to do so by creating a fictitious demand through the aid of the press. We charge directly that the consumers of coal were taxed last year SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, caused by speculators manipulating these sales, after making purchases at lower rates, to run up the prices, which they did do, in one instance two dollars a ton at a single sale, on store coal, which effected the prices of all sizes, and which, if it had been sold as other companies and dealers sell their coal, the size would not have exceeded 25 cents a ton. The only argument in favor of such a policy, is that it gives large consumers the privilege of buying coal direct from the company at first cost; but this amounts to nothing, because the other companies sell direct to their large consumers on the same terms without resorting to such a damaging practice. The object seems to be to monetize business, force speculation, and gives parties interested an opportunity of filling their pockets, at the expense of the community. Such a practice exists no where else in this country, or in any other coal producing country on the face of the globe. Yet the press abroad, and even in our own State, many of whom appear to be the great advocates of individual rights, while they are anathematizing all others engaged in the trade, appear to be the advocates of the acts of these corporations, or at least we seldom if ever, scarcely see a word of disproval. If our next Legislature does not take some action so as to protect the coal trade of the State from the conduct of these companies, who possess both mining and transporting privileges, it will be a shameful neglect of the true interests of the States.

THE NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS.

This convocation which was in session for five days in Philadelphia last week, adjourned finally on Saturday last. The original organization was formed several years since outside and independent of the trades unions, and the principal difference of opinion on many topics, but yearly it has been gaining strength, and the late Congress witnessed the presence of many delegates from unions of workingmen. If conducted wisely and with moderation, it must become a powerful organization in the interest of labor.

The proceedings of the recent session have elicited comment from the press, much of it unfavorable. There was much that is impracticable and had mixed with what was good, brought before the Congress. The agrarianism introduced may be attributed to the foreign born delegates who were present, but no action of the Congress endorsed such theories. We do not feel like condemning the entire proceedings of the Congress because of the presence of some impracticable theorists, but we would separate the good from the bad in the principles discussed, and commend those which we consider worthy.

Many important questions were before the Congress. Promising that the agrarian measures will be for all time rejected by the natural good sense of those who compose the class represented in this Congress, we say, unhesitatingly, that there are many not identified intimately with this movement who sympathize with them in the legislative reforms demanded. Of all similar assemblages that we remember, this was the most catholic in spirit. Without regard to color or sex, all delegates who represented labor, were admitted to seats. And we must say to the credit of the colored delegation present, that decidedly the most sensible speeches that we noticed reported was made by a colored delegate from Maryland. On the question of admitting that irrepressible gentleman lady, Miss Susan B. Anthony, the Congress did right in refusing. It does not seem that she was a delegate from any trades-union of women, only from Botchis, a society of females, which can hardly expect recognition in a labor Congress.

On the Coolie question the Congress took the proper ground. While they do not object to the voluntary immigration of the Chinese they oppose the contract system in connection with their coming to this country. Our Government opposed this system, which is a mild form of slavery, as early as 1862.

The Congress took ground in favor of a low rate of interest, and alteration of the revenue laws so as to protect labor and the industrial interests of the country. We believe that the true policy of every good government is to especially protect labor and the capital which enters into the industrial interests of the country. Without such protection, no people can prosper. They should be protected from the operations of that capital which is merely used for shaving purposes, the profits of which go to sustain a set of men who are the drones of the community in which they live. We believe in a low rate of interest so that the capacity of people to invest in legitimate business can be increased. There is no doubt that much of the legislation of the country of late years has been hostile to the productive industry of the country. We believe that every per cent. increase of interest, dividends on stocks, etc., is so much taken from labor and diverted from the productive interests of the country. We also believe that unless this system should be changed, nothing can prevent a general financial crash. Careful legislation may prevent it. Nothing else. While we do not believe in the agrarian principles expressed by some wild theorists in the Congress, yet there is no doubt that reform is needed in the huge land speculations out West, where land is bought up in large quantities and held for speculative purposes.

It was reported in the proceedings of the Congress that Mr. Richard Trevellick of Michigan, who was before the close elected President, had expressed himself in favor of repudiating the national debt. This report, it is stated, was erroneous. What he did say was to the effect that if the present system of banking, the high rates of interest, the large dividends banks declare, resulted in building up monopolies—increasing the wealth of the rich, and making the poor poorer—then it would prove as evil which would result in the destruction of the public, and it we could not remedy it in any other way, he for one, was in favor of "sponging out the national debt."

Among the propositions adopted by the Congress, was one, "that the national banking system, being inimical to the spirit of liberty, and subversive of the principles of justice and without warrant in the Constitution of the United States, and wrongfully increasing the burdens of the wealth producing classes millions of dollars annually, justice, the aspirations of honest industry, and the spirit of imperilled liberty demand its immediate repeal and the substitution of legal tender notes as the exclusive currency of the nation." Also, another, "that the legal tender money should be made a legal tender in the payment of all debts, public and private, and convertible at the option of the holder into government bonds, bearing interest at not more than three per cent. per annum, with privilege to the holder to reconvert the bonds into money or the money into bonds, at pleasure." We think the rate of interest proposed is rather low, but the idea of funding the national debt into a currency of bonds is not a bad one, and we believe even now has many supporters.

We agree with the Congress on the questions of the necessity of a Department of Labor at Washington, for protecting labor and collecting statistics in connection with it and also, on the question of the co-operation of labor in all departments of industry. Co-operation is the only panacea. And decidedly the best way to solve the problem of the labor question. It will eventually, be the great harmonizer between capital and labor. We have in a previous article on this subject, suggested, and we here repeat, let a good general law for the co-operation of capital and labor be passed by the National Congress. Let this Government make it a point to harmonize as far as possible, the interests of capital and labor, for on this country depends, as it were there is great antagonism between them.

In glancing over what was done by this Labor Congress, we are not disposed to reject all beneath was suggested to be some improper theories proposed. There were many good and sensible advisers, and there is no doubt that the organization is yearly gaining strength even in cases of unions who are in extensive business operations and who are not adherents of associations. Reports of great importance were submitted to the Congress, and if these full other subjects are adopted of early adjourn, perhaps still greater work is to be done before the assembling of the organization will become powerful to enable the labor of the country and its individual interests. Such we trust, will be the case.

THE REPORT TO THE NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINING.—This Committee of which Mr. John Siney of this County, was a member, made a report to the Labor Congress before its adjournment. We have not room for extended comment. We can only refer to some of the prominent points. The report represents the prices as that which the men received. The deduction of all bills, whether they are right or wrong. The broker at the end of each month hands all his accounts into the office without consulting the miner. The operator charges five per cent. for collecting and the miner has nothing to say. The physician charges seventy-five cents per month for a married man, and fifty cents for a single man. The men are not very particular about the item, still they demand the privilege of choosing their physician, instead of having the operator to do it for them. The shoemaker's bill was collected at the end of the month, the same as the butcher's bill. Instances are cited where a shoemaker took a man's measure, collected the bill at the office, and then never finished the job.

Finally the operators had stores, which they compelled the men to patronize. This, they said, was against the laws of the State, and they felt greatly grieved that they could not spend their money where they pleased. They say that for years and years they worked for two dollars a day for days, while the operators were making fabulous sums. Said one miner: "The operators keep us ignorant, and then they blacklist us because we can read and write."

"We would like to devote a part of our time to books and papers, but how can we when the prices and the operators are opposed to the eight-hour law?" It was the universal complaint that the operators were not in favor of the miners sending their children to school. Thousands upon thousands of the children of miners, from eight to ten years of age, and even younger, are obliged to work ten hours per day.

Much has been said among the miners seeking to control the market. This is the answer contained: "When all the men are at work, they can supply the market in about seven months. In that time 300 days were required; the year the amount required was 360. In about 14 months." The report has much better for them to work moderately all the year, or at least nine or ten months, than to gut the market in the spring, and then be idle a part of the time. Again, they think that it is far better to keep coal at $2 or $3 per ton year round, than to have the prices ranging from $4 to $15. For years past the operators have had control with each year, and behind the men, and consequently the miners' interests and profits went to the operators. Now is the time to change this system. Many operators do not know the size of the markets, or, if this cannot be done in every instance, at least to share the profits with their employees. How can this be done? The operators have no idea of being content with six returns a year, and to share with their workmen is to them simply ridiculous. The writing scale of prices works both ways, however, for the men are willing to suffer cheaper when the prices fall, to a certain point.

The fact is, responsible for the present high prices of coal? Unquestionably it is divided between three parties.

First, the great mining monopolies, the managers of which are not satisfied with small profit on the coal they mine, but must have large profits, or else!

Second. The Transportation Companies, the railroads, which charge such enormous rates as compelled to lie idle and directly aid the speculating operations. Transportation hardly pay for itself, and refused to the smaller companies outside of the ring, and all the machinery of transportation enlisted to monopoly is thrown into the scale to force the price of coal beyond reason.

Third. The city speculators, who, to say the least, are not over scrupulous, and not further advantage of the necessities of the community.

The report then goes on to say that "the price of coal should remain at $4 dollars a ton in New York the year round. If it keeps below the minimum point, the price of labor must go down, and they must quit work. On the other hand, they do not desire that the price of coal should ever advance above the maximum point mentioned.

When coal sold at New York for $5 per ton, and at Port Carbon for $2 per ton, the miners of Schuylkill County were for miners $76 per week; outside laborers, $21; outside laborers, $18; inside laborers, $14; inside miners received $15; inside laborers, $14; outside laborers, $11 50, and when prices for coal advanced to $6 per ton at New York, wages were advanced 50 per cent of said advance. To illustrate: If coal advanced $1 per ton at New York (which it has not yet done), the miners' wages would then go up 50 per cent. Not the miner but put up the price of coal at Port Carbon and New York. They do not demand nor receive any advance of wages until the coal is mined and sold, and then only in proportion to the operators. Thus they demand the twenty per cent. of the advance at which the coal was sold when the $6 or $5 fixed as the basis. But if the price of coal is reduced, their wages would be reduced pro rata, a measure on their part.

Your Committee would suggest that it is a question of vital importance to the miners of the country, and of the coal mines of the country, paying the greatest owners a fair minimum for the labor, and for the mines as the gold mines of California have been sunk in the interior of the rocks, so that the miners can be the interest of the whole country, and the great owners of the hands of the people until the whole of the coal is mined.

R. L. Ridgway, Stillman B. Pratt, Samuel V. Stein, John Siney, A. C. Cameron, Committee.

THE COAL TRADE.

Pottsville, August 28, 1869.

The quantity sent by Railroad this week is 108,500 13 tons—by Canal 5,633 00 tons—for the week 117,193 13 tons against 102,757 tons for the corresponding week last year.

The trade, it will be seen, is likely to be entirely suspended by Canal, for the want of water to supply the city of Philadelphia.—This is another unexpected feature, and is also tending to run up the prices of coal. Why don't the press abroad denounce Sam's dams also for conspiring to keep up the prices of coal.

As far as we can learn about 75,000 tons of coal are lying in the Canal Basins this week and Fairmount locks which cannot pass through; and as no empty boats are permitted to come through these locks, the trade is now confined to a few boats, supplying the lime-kilns, furnaces, &c., above that point.

We have had no rain during the week. The streams are becoming lower, and without a good fall of rain to fill up Fairmount Dam the trade on the Canal cannot be resumed, which we hope may speedily fall, otherwise not only the trade will continue suspended but vegetation will suffer severely, and in many instances be destroyed.

Several of the collieries in this Region have suspended, owing to the unremunerating prices of coal, and others are only partially worked for the want of cars to carry the coal to market. The suspension by Canal has caused an extra demand for railroad cars, which they are unable to supply.

The price of coal yesterday in this Region ranged from $3 40 to $3 75 per ton for prepared, according to quality, and about $3 for Lump for the line. For a special kind we believe that $4 25 has been offered in a single instance. Some kinds of coal are accumulating on the wharves at Port Richmond.

If the Workingmen's Benevolent Association make any extreme demands for labor beyond a fair average price for coal, they will damage their cause to a much greater extent than any may imagine. If the coal operators are not united, and, we learn, cannon unite in this Region at least, so long as there is so much selfishness exhibited on the part of some, and want of confidence in others, it is no reason that those who have the power should demand more than what their basis fairly calls for. If either party suffers a short time from an arrangement, fairly entered into, they must submit to it, or effect an alteration, but not make an extra demand, as they did last month. If they do, they ought not to be met again, but denounced as totally unworthy of confidence.

Our quotations for coal both at Philadelphia and New York, remain without change.

The trade sums up this week as follows, compared with last year:

1869.	Week.	Total.	1869.	Week.	Total.	Inc.	Dec.
P R R	30,564	1,514 07	105,397	0	2,195,546	417,421	
Sch. Canal	19,000	1,497	19,000	5,633	416,184	2 42,816	
L Val R R	46,365	1,457,197	43,551	1,471,000	6,197	14,118	
Penn'a Canal	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L N R R	10,121	200,146	11,145	403,817	321,571		
L C & N Co.	12,000	1,000,000		1,471,681	1,016,487		
Sch'kl R R	12,000	258,000		205,507	1,172,781		
Total	129,050	$4,326,343	13,696	$3,496,989		60,405	
Penn'a R R	30,000	$67,500	13,696	$30,816		36,684	
Sch'kl Canal	3,100	12,544	118	10,136		6,529	
D & H	90,857	617,943		1,017,943		1,000,000	
D & H				105,749		102,709	
Wyom'g R R		7118,540		125,000		57,500	
Wyom'g Can		18,500		3,000		9,946	
Shamokin	2,000	250,000	15,000	16,000		4,25,917	
Penn'a Coal	2,000	2,000	3,000	15,000		9,000	
Read. R R.	8,000	64,000	5,000	41,000		1,000	
L. V. R R.	5,000	40,000	5,000	40,000		6,000	
Warrior R.	5,000	30,000	6,000	110,000		19,307	
Bel. Del.	5,000	100,000	6,000	104,000		11,311	
	350,000	3,000,000		2,000,000			
	350,000	3,000,000		2,000,000			
	350,000	3,000,000		2,000,000	