

Pennsylvania Gazette. PUBLISHED BY ED & CO., Proprietors. J. B. KING, J. F. REED, Proprietors. OFFICE: GAZETTE BUILDING, 84 AND 86 FIFTH AV. OFFICIAL PAPER OF Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Allegheny County.

tion to legislaive interference with the question in the State Senate, last Spring, caused the defeat of a bill which had already passed the House, and which comprehended ample provisions for the security of underground life. This bill (H. B. No. 459) came up on second reading in the Senate, March 31st. Its special application was to the county of Schuylkill. Mr. Dawson, of Lebanon, moved to amend by making it a general enactment for the entire State, and his proposition was supported by Senators Errett, White and several others. Yet the Senator from this very county of Luzerne, which is in mourning now for the reckless destruction of two hundred of its citizens, objected so earnestly to its passage, that the general amendment was lost, by a vote of 14 to 13, and the original bill, for Schuylkill county, also failed to become a law.

Senator Turner "had not heard from his constituents; did not know whether they desired such legislation or not; thought it was rough treatment to Luzerne to force the bill upon them until they ask for it; there was no such imminent danger from fire-damp and other causes, in the newer mines of his county; he was approaching when Luzerne the would want such a law, but not now; he had not read the bill and did not know what was in it," &c., &c. He opposed the bill, because there had been no fire-damp explosions in Luzerne, and voted against it after learning that its provisions included a general system for regulating ventilation, and the safety of egress from the mines, and for a State inspection.

It is worthy of note that this bill, which, had it been permitted to become a law, would have completely prevented the Avondale disaster, was supported by twelve Senators, all Republicans, and that eleven of the fourteen negative votes were cast by Democratic Senators, including those from the Lehigh, Carbon, Wyoming, Schuylkill, Lycoming, Northumberland, Blair, Clearfield and Westmoreland mineral districts. Not a Democratic Senator was found to vote for legislative protection for the lives of a class of their constituents whom that party claim an especial interest in. We do not say that party lines were drawn on a question always of public interest, but it is remarkable that every Democratic Senator should have recorded his name against it. The people of Luzerne, as of other mining districts, would do well to reflect upon the expediency of supporting a party which makes such a fatal mistake.

The public voice is at last unanimous in demanding that the proper safeguards for the lives of miners shall be prescribed by law. Probably no better system can be devised than was embodied in the bill which was thus unfortunately defeated at the last session of our Legislature. We have not its text before us, but Senators declared that its provisions were as nearly complete as they could be made. After the shocking experience which at last covers so many humble households with the pall of death, we may presume that even a Luzerne Senator has discovered what his people want, and that there will be no more of short-sighted opposition, partisan or otherwise, to the enactment of suitable safeguards for the future protection of the lives of our miners.

In view of our reflection, in yesterday's GAZETTE, upon the culpable failure of our State government to provide against such entirely avoidable calamities as this at Avondale, it has seemed proper to make this statement of the nature of a recent effort in this direction, and why that effort failed. The lamentable consequences of that failure are now recognized by the public.

The miners of Luzerne, gathered yesterday around the fatal scene, were unanimous in declaring they would no longer work in any mines unprovided with distinct air shafts and avenues for escape. They mean well; they see what is wanted, and will take such order as they can, to secure it. But the necessities of labor will eventually lead them to forget or to ignore this wise resolve, which it will be idle to rely upon the proper precautions being taken by all the colliery-proprietors. The State must intervene with its authority; it cannot otherwise fulfil the palpable obligations of government to the governed.

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