

GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, and Governor Lee, of Virginia, were both inaugurated on New Year's day.

There is said to be over two thousand nominations now pending before the Senate, awaiting confirmation.

In turning over your new leaf for the year, resolve to take the HERALD, read it, be virtuous, well-informed, and happy.

The court in Northumberland county has decided that the law does not prohibit buying whisky on Sunday. It is the wicked landlord who sells it that violates the law.

Our Democratic friends who find nothing in their stockings on Christmas, fondly hoped for a New Year's gift. It now takes a yard stick to measure their contentment.

It is said that several Congressmen were afraid to go home to eat their Christmas turkey, because their constituents expect them to spend all their time hunting offices for them.

Congress resumed business at the old stand on yesterday, the 5th inst. It is to be hoped that the members who turned over a new leaf on New Year's day, will not forget it before the session ends.

The Commercial persists in wrestling with the "Rules and Regulations" formerly governing Republican primary elections in this county.

HON. CHARLES R. BRUCE, has declined the appointment of Supreme Court Reporter, tendered him by Governor Pattison. He was chiefly moved thereby by the reason that the pay was too small for the amount of work required.

The terms of over a hundred Presidential postmasters expired in December, and at least twice that number will expire during the present month. What a lot of Democratic mouths must be watering, in anticipation of the feast of fat things in store for some of them!

The long strike of the coal miners on the Monongahela river has been terminated by the miners agreeing to resume work at the old wages. This strike was supported by masked mobs, and this unlawful procedure, if nothing else, was sufficient to stamp it with failure.

It is an interesting fact that the first commission signed by President Cleveland after his Cabinet commissions was that of General Grant as General of the Army on the retired list; and the first act of Congress signed by him was the bill giving Mrs. Grant an annuity of \$5,000.

The world do move! A colored man has been appointed to a clerkship in Washington under this Democratic administration. It was a mistake, though. It was not known he was black until he presented himself at the Department. He had passed the civil service examination, and the Commissioners had not reported his color.

It is anxiety to have a primary election called this month, the Commercial professes to furnish the blanks "free of expense." People with ordinary memories will remember that before the last primary election this same paper announced that it was publishing the cards of the candidates "free of expense," yet all the same, it collected \$150,000 from the chairman for the publication. That old dodge won't put money in the Commercial's purse the second time.

The Pittsburg Dispatch comes to the fore with a statement that the Standard Oil Company, the H. C. Frick & Co. Coke Company, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have formed a combination to utilize the gas from the events of the coke country, and pipe it to Philadelphia for illuminating purposes, while also supplying the city with natural gas for fuel. This is a stupendous scheme, or a stupendous story, which we are not prepared to say. The only real difficulties in the way are purely mechanical, and in view of the difficult facts that are daily performed in this line, we are not prepared to deny that the exploit can be achieved, but whether so gigantic a monopoly can be made successful the future can alone determine.

trolled by its advice. This sublime assurance is evidently founded on the belief that the Republicans of the county have not sense enough to distinguish between loyalty and treason, and can be gulled into following the lead of a journal that has twice shamelessly betrayed them and is constantly laboring to divide and overthrow their organization.

Some one ought to provide the Commercial with a copy of the "Rules and Regulations governing Republican Primary Elections" in this county, and also with common sense enough, if possible, to truthfully publish the action of the party under these rules. It is now wifully and knowingly mistating the facts in relation to the election of the Chairman and county committee. Here are the facts: At the January court, in 1882, a business meeting of the party was held, and George W. Pile was elected chairman for the ensuing year. At the primary election held on June 23d of that year, amendments to the rules were adopted by a vote of 563 to 251. Among these rules is one providing that thereafter the county committee should elect its own chairman, thereby abolishing the annual business meeting heretofore held for the election of that official. In 1884 there was no annual business meeting held, but as under the new rules adopted by the State Convention in 1882, it became necessary to select delegates to the convention by vote, Chairman Pile summoned the County Committee together on the 20th of February, 1884, for the purpose of calling a special primary election in April to elect delegates to the State Convention. The year for which Mr. Pile was elected having expired, he declined further service, and the committee, under the new rules adopted at the previous primary, elected John R. Scott chairman to serve until the usual primary election held in June of that year. At this election, held on the 28th day of June, 1884, a new committee was chosen, and they elected John R. Scott chairman for the ensuing year.

The last Republican county committee elected in this county, was at the primary election held on the 28th of June, 1884. This committee chose John R. Scott as its chairman and the time of their service expired on the 30th day of June, 1885. Rule 9, provides that no person shall serve as judge for two succeeding years, and therefore the members of the last committee are absolutely ineligible to serve the present year. The party is therefore absolutely without a committee, and without a chairman, unless, as we once before suggested, the chairman holds over until his successor is duly elected, there being nothing in the rules forbidding it. It is to be regretted that when the committee in June last, decided that there was no necessity for holding a primary, there being no competitors for the offices, it overlooked the fact that committee members were to be elected, but there is no cause in crying over spilled milk, the fact cannot be altered, and we have no committee-men.

The scare that the Commercial is laboring to get up is only one of its usual attempts to divide, distract and disorganize the party, and its assertion that the committee elected in 1884, is still in life, with power to call a meeting and elect a chairman, we have shown above, is absolutely untrue, and if we had a committee and a chairman there is nothing for them to do until the time for holding the next primary arrives. But how are we to hold our next primary and complete our party organization, may be asked? Nothing is simpler. Rule 19, provides "that the Republican party of Somerset County hold its primary election for the nomination of candidates on the fourth Saturday of June of each year." There is no mistaking this. Rule 9, provides that:

The voters in election precincts in addition to voting for candidates for nomination shall also vote for and elect a judge of election on the day of the primary election, the judge to also be the judge of election for said precinct for the ensuing year—Provided, that no person shall serve as judge for two succeeding years.

And by Rule 10, it is provided that:

In case of a vacancy or in the absence of the committee-men at the hour of 8 o'clock, a. m., on the day of the primary election, the inspector present who had the highest vote at the previous primary election shall act as committee-man. In case of the absence of the inspectors, the clerk present having the highest vote at the primary election shall act as committee-man.

Thus it will be plainly seen that on the fourth Saturday of next June the Republican voters will assemble at the usual places of election, at the time fixed for opening the polls, there being no one authorized to hold the election, the voters present will elect a judge of election who will proceed to open the polls, receive the votes, &c.

The voters will at the same time elect a committee-man to serve for the ensuing year. These committee-men will assemble at Somerset on the Tuesday following the election and there elect their chairman, and the organization is completed under the rules, and the machinery is in order to take charge of, and run the canvass.

We have given above the present status of the party and shown how, under the rules, the perpetuity of the organization can be continued. We have done this in the interest of the party alone, and in defence of its regularly adopted rules. We have no greater interest in the matter than has any other member of the party. Our advice is to stand by the rules. But if the Republicans of the county prefer to follow after false

gods, to be lured away from the right, to follow the ignis fatuus of the Commercial that has repeatedly attempted to lead them into the quagmire of discord and distraction, we as well as they, must abide the result. Any disregard of the rules, will in time, return to plague us, and will eventually end in their being totally ignored and the certain overthrow of all party organization.

Additional Local.

Excursion Here.—Among the many patrons of your paper, there may be some desirous of seeing an item from Western Nebraska. Conrad is a thriving little town, is located 247 miles west of Omaha, is the oldest of the great Platte valley, a station on the Union Pacific Railroad, and on the famous 100th meridian, has a population of 250. A fine scope of country, well settled for 25 miles north 15 miles south, and 10 miles east and west, supports the town while there is a constant demand for all kinds of produce from the mountains West. The town made a good growth last year, many fine residences and business houses were put up, and is a good and lively business place. The people are moral and industrious, and as a matter of fact are prospering by the great amount that the surroundings afford. We have had very little snow yet this season. Cattle are still grazing on the prairie. Farmers are plowing yet. The weather is warm and pleasant for this time of the year. This is no wood, but a heavy snow, that is a good sign for winter, and can only be found along banks of rivers and streams, but considerable timber is planted every year by the farmers. The varieties mostly are box-elder, ash, vaspulera and cotton-wood, which all grow well in this soil. There is a vast area of farming land free from stone and composed of dark, rich sandy loam, covered with a heavy sod, the same being used extensively in the erection of barns and sheds, and by ones for dwellings. It does make a comfortable house, warm in winter and cool in summer. Among these may be found some very nice and handsome structures. The more primitive structures were built regardless of taste, some living in holes or excavations along banks, or what we call "cat holes." The new buildings are of wood and sod. The era of sod buildings is almost over. Society is improving. Frame structures are being erected and immense corrugate and granaries are being built, in which to store grain. But many of the farmers are so engrossed in the choice of wood that they are neglecting to plant sod. Sod is a good thing on some of the eastern farms. At present corn is worth 30 cents per bushel, while oats at about the same. The farmer is extensively used as fuel by many of the farmers. The land is not adapted to corn growing only; but small grains and vegetables, such as wheat, corn, etc., are successfully grown here. The average yield of wheat is 25, oats 40, corn 45, and barley 35 bushels to the acre. Prices of land vary according to quality and location. Now prices are selling from ten to twenty dollars per acre, but in some cases from five to ten dollars. Two years ago this same land sold from three to four dollars an acre. Improved farms are worth from twenty to twenty-five dollars an acre. Homesteads and timber claims are all wanted. Five years ago a place was sold for \$100, but now it is dotted all over, or nearly, on every 100 acres there is a house or some improvement. 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