

# The Patriot & Union.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 14, 1861.

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**Democratic County Convention.**

At a meeting of the Democratic County Committee, held at the Morgan House, February 6, 1861, in pursuance of a call of the Chairman, it was

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of the County Committee be authorized to call a County Convention, to assemble at Harrisburg on the 18th inst., for the purpose of selecting six additional delegates to act in conjunction with those elected by the late Democratic County Convention, to represent Dauphin county in the Democratic State Convention called to meet at Harrisburg on the 21st inst.

In pursuance of the above resolution, I hereby notify the Democratic citizens of Dauphin county to meet in their respective wards and townships on the 16th inst., at the usual time and place, and select delegates to the County Convention, to be held at Harrisburg on the 18th inst.

W. D. BOAS, Chairman.

W. D. EARNEST, Sec'y.

**Party Before the Union.**

The New York Tribune is in ecstasies with Mr. LINCOLN. His Indianapolis speech, and particularly a recent article in the Springfield Journal, satisfied GREELEY that the President has determined upon the line of policy that he will pursue—that he is against compromise or concession of any sort—that he will not recede a step from the principles of the Chicago platform—that he will use the army and navy of the United States to recapture the forts taken possession of by the authorities of the seceding States—that, in short, he will do nothing to repair the calamity which his election to the Presidency has inflicted upon the country, but will direct all his energies towards punishing the South for its rebellion. This is to be the policy of the Lincoln administration. All ideas of a peaceful settlement are to be discouraged. Lincoln will stand by the platform of his party if the Union crumble to fragments, and even at the cost of bloody war. The Tribune is delighted at the prospect. The Union is not to be patched up by compromise, and Lincoln has determined to side with the ultra-Republicans.

If any man doubts that the leaders of the Republican party are bent upon carrying out their extreme doctrines even at the cost of the Union, let him read the following exposition of the Republican creed from the Tribune of Tuesday last:

What, however, we are not ready to abandon, is our principles; and so long as the Republican party remains faithful to the ideas with which it won the Presidential election, so long we are devoted to it heart and soul. The chief of these ideas is that slavery shall not be extended by the power and influence of the Federal Government; and the preservation of that idea, and of that policy, we regard as of vastly greater moment to America and to the world, than the preservation of the Union.

Here we are told that the preservation of the ideas of the Republican party are of vastly greater moment than the preservation of the Union. The Tribune would rather see the Union dissolved than slavery extended, or a single slave State added to the Confederacy. And Mr. Lincoln is going to use the government for the execution of this malign policy.

**The State and the Sunbury and Erie Railroad—A Practical View.**

The project of making a railroad from Philadelphia to the Lakes, to compete with New York for the vast trade of those inland seas, has been the dream of our statesmen for more than a quarter of a century. Pennsylvania, with characteristic caution, witnessed the enterprise of New York in completing two railroads and a canal of great capacity to conduct the trade of the Lakes to her metropolis, before she awoke from her slumber, and commenced the work of constructing the Sunbury and Erie Railroad. That enterprise languished, passed from one management to another, and nearly died from lack of necessary sympathy and aid, until the Commonwealth listened to its appeals, and sold the canal in the possession of the State to the company, upon such terms as were intended to promote its completion.

The available means thus obtained have been exhausted, the road is nearly finished, and the question is now presented to the State whether it will continue to regard this enterprise with favor or abandon it, and undo all that she has already done to accomplish its completion.

Let us look at this question in a practical light, divested of all prejudices arising from past transactions. The State has a double interest in the Sunbury and Erie railroad: first, that it shall be immediately completed for the development of the country through which it passes, and to secure to this State commercial advantages flowing from direct communication with the Lakes.

Second, that the claim which the State has upon the road for the price of the State cannot be ultimately paid.

How can both these interests be subserved? It is obvious that they go hand in hand. They cannot be severed without working a double injury. Whatever policy benefits the company equally benefits the State—indirectly, in promoting the welfare of her citizens, and directly, in increasing the security for the amount due to the Treasury.

Now let us go back a moment and see the position of both parties. When the Sunbury and Erie company purchased the State canal, its road finished and in process of completion, of seven millions of dollars to secure the payment of bonds of an equal amount, one half of

which (\$3,500,000) were retained by the State as an equivalent for the canals, and the other half held for the use of the company. These bonds, being all based upon the same mortgage, have equal security. Those belonging to the State have no priority of lien over those belonging to the company. At the last session of the Legislature the company was authorized to issue scrip to the amount of \$800,000 for the payment of pressing demands, which was made a first lien upon the road, taking precedence of the seven million mortgage.

In consequence of depression in monetary affairs and the extent of this mortgage, the company was unable to dispose of its bonds without ruinous sacrifice, and hence the work had to be stopped upon the road after being energetically conducted to a point near completion. For the purpose of removing this difficulty and furnishing them with marketable bonds to finish and equip their road, the company ask that the Legislature authorize it to issue \$500,000 bonds and secure the same by a first mortgage, and that the State consent to take a second mortgage for \$4,000,000, covering principal and accrued interest on account of the State canals.

What is the duty and interest of the State under these circumstances? She may proceed to sell the road under the mortgage, but what would she realize and who would purchase? First, the \$600,000 of scrip issued would be deducted from the proceeds of a forced sale, and then the remainder divided equally between the State and the holders of the company's bonds. The State would get only a small portion of her claim. The road would go into the possession of New York capitalists, the stock and bondholders ruined, and the Commonwealth reap no substantial advantage in foregoing a greater good by grasping hastily at a lesser. This is clearly not the means by which the State can subserve the double interest she has in this road; for she would not realize her claim, or be sure of the completion of a highway to the Lakes, or have any security that, if completed, it would be used to advance Pennsylvania interests. If the State wishes to defeat her own claim, and, at the same time, destroy the company and the capital already invested in the road upon the faith of its ultimate completion and productiveness, she could not adopt a better method of accomplishing this ruinous object than by proceeding to the extremity of a forced sale.

But the State may accomplish both purposes at the same time. The completion of the road is necessary to the State as to the company. We have shown that their interests are inseparable. We have demonstrated that it is not the interest of the Commonwealth to have the road sold. Then let its completion be encouraged. It will not abstract a dollar from the public coffers; but add incalculably to the general wealth and prosperity. If the State accedes to the request of the company it will have a second mortgage on a completed and prosperous road in exchange for one half of a first mortgage upon an unfinished road, now constantly sinking instead of earning money. We do not see that there is room for doubt or hesitation under these circumstances.

## LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Patriot and Union.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1861.

DEAR PATRIOT.—The troops and weapons of human destruction still keep pouring into the city. Yesterday a large body of United States troops, with a number of pieces of artillery, arrived, and took their line of march towards the Judiciary square, where that branch of the accumulating army is quartered. It reminded me of the approaching coronation of some despot monarch; instead of the anticipated inauguration of a President of a Republic, elected by the free suffrages of a free people.

Mr. Crittenden this morning presented a petition of twenty-two thousand voters of Massachusetts, praying for the adoption of his (Crittenden's) propositions for adjusting the difficulties of the country. The people in that State not being willing to trust their own Senators, it was forwarded to Mr. Crittenden, himself, to present. Mr. Sumner took occasion to say that many of those who signed it did not understand the extent of Mr. Crittenden's propositions. I rather think that he will find that his constituents have as much brains, and a good deal more patriotism, than their Senatorial representative. I think General Wilson, Sumner's colleague, is more disposed to respect the voice of his constituents in the appeal they have made than Sumner. I judge so from seeing him in social conversation with Mr. Crittenden immediately after its presentation, with some conciliatory and patriotic remarks.

The committee in the Philadelphia contested election case reported that the sitting member Mr. CALDWELL was entitled to his seat.

Mr. BRESSLER on leave given presented five petitions in favor of the relief to the Sunbury and Erie railroad company. They were passed.

An act to create a new ward in Pottsville was passed.

An act authorizing the committee which was appointed to invite President Lincoln to visit Philadelphia, to proceed to Pittsburg, was passed.

Mr. RHOADS, an act relative to vagrants in the city of Reading.

Mr. ROBINSON, an act relative to the Butler and Freeport turnpike road.

Mr. MULLIN, an act relative to the redemption of unclaimed lands which may have been sold for taxes.

Mr. BRESSLER, an act relative to the county seat of Cameron county.

Mr. ELLENBERGER, a supplement to the act incorporating the Borough of Eason.

Mr. RANDALL, an act relative to foreign attachment; also, an act relative to judgments, etc., in Philadelphia.

Mr. MOORE, an act relative to the importation of fish into Philadelphia.

Mr. THOMAS, an act relative to certain real estate.

Mr. RIDGEWAY, an act relative to the accounts of John M. Coleman, late county treasurer of Philadelphia.

Mr. LEISENRING, an act to extend the charter of the Greenwich improvement and railroad company; also, upon leave given, a memorial of the Philadelphia Board of Trade relative to promissory notes.

Mr. DUFFIELD, an act to incorporate the Excelsior steam forcing hose company.

Mr. ABBOTT, an act to compensate George Gordon for injuries sustained in the public service.

On motion of Mr. ABBOTT, the Committee on Claims were instructed to report upon the same during the present session.

Mr. BYRNE on leave given presented a memorial from A. Wellington Hart, asking that the printing of the sheriff's sales of Luzerne county be given to the Scranton papers.

Mr. TRACY, an act to incorporate the Tontine coal and iron company.

Also, an act to extend the enrolment tax of the Susquehanna Valley railroad company; which on leave given was considered and passed.

Mr. BARNESLEY on leave given offered a package containing the electoral vote of Maine and handed it to the tellers, when the certificate was read and the Secretary of the Senate made a note thereof.

Mr. ELLIOTT, an act relative to Pine Creek.

Mr. HAPPER offered a resolution concerning commissioners who were sent to the peace conference at Washington \$6 per diem and mileage.

Mr. Douglas suggested, and no objections made, that the formal part of the certificate and the names of the electors be omitted from the reading.

The returns from the various States were

proceeded with, the reading of the vote of

South Carolina being productive of a good

humored excitement. The reading of the elec-

toral votes was complicated by the Tellers, who

reported the result.

Whereupon the Vice Pre-

sident, rising, said:

Ashburn Lincoln, of Illinois, having received

a majority of the whole number of electro-

ral votes, is duly elected President of the

United States for the four years commencing on the 4th of March, 1861.

He made a similar announcement as to Han-

nibal Hamlin, of Maine, for Vice President.

## PENNA' LEGISLATURE.

### SENATE.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1861.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock by the SPEAKER.

A large number of bills were reported, the different committees.

### BILLS IN PLACE.

Mr. SCHINDEL, an act to revive and continue the law relative to graduating lands on which taxes have not been paid.

Mr. NICHOLS, a supplement to the act relative to certain courts.

Mr. PARKER, an act relating to writs of error.

Mr. LAWRENCE, a joint resolution relative to the mode of the commissioners of Wash-

ington.

Mr. IRISH, an act to incorporate the Petro-

leum oil company of Pittsburgh.

Mr. MEREDITH, an act to incorporate the

Freeport gas and water company.

Mr. HAMILTON, an act for damages by fire on the Columbia railroad, in 1854.

Mr. LAWRENCE, an act authorizing the commissioners of Washington county to com-

promise with the bondholders of the Hempfield railroad, and to facilitate the collection of taxes in said county.

Mr. SMITH, an act relative to certain parts

of real estate belonging to the estate of Jane

Willing deceased; also, a supplement to the

act relative to the mode of drawing jurors in

the several courts of Philadelphia.

ORIGINAL RESOLUTION.

Mr. SMITH offered a resolution that three

members from each House be added to the com-

mittee to invite President Lincoln to visit Har-

risonburg—that said committee be authorized to

visit Pittsburgh and make the invitation in per-

son—make the necessary arrangements, &c.—

which was passed.

### SECOND READING.

An act relative to certain military companies

in the Washington county brigade, came up on

the orders, and passed finally.

BILLS RE-CO-NSIDERED.

On motion of Mr. HIESTAND, the veto by

which the supplement to the Gap mining com-

pany was postponed indefinitely was re-con-

sidered, and postponed for the present.

Mr. SCHINDEL moved a re-consideration of

the vote defeating the act to create a new elec-

tion district in the Twenty-fifth ward of Phil-

adelphia; which was not agreed to.

BILLS CONSIDERED.

Mr. MOTT called up House bill, entitled "An

Act in relation to the sheriff of Monroe county,"

which was passed finally.

Mr. PARKER called up House bill, entitled

"An Act to incorporate the Philadelphia skating

club and humane society;" which passed finally.

Mr. SERRILL called up House bill, entitled

"An Act to erect a new ward in Pott