THE CITIZEN.

WILLIAM C. NEGLEY - - Publisher

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 1901.

Republican County Ticket.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
E. E. YOUNG.

FOR CLERK OF COURTS,
W. H. CAMPBELL.

FOR COUNTY SURVEYOR,
B. F. HILLIARD.

Public Powers for Private Use.

In the division of the Pittsburg district, for street-car and elevated railroad purposes, the Oliver and Bigelow brothers got part of the point or lower district of the city, the hill district and East End; the Mellons got a foothold in the lower part of the city and the Monongahela valley, and Dick Quay and his crowd got a part of the point, Allegheny and the Ohio and Beaver valley to New Castle.

None of the charters seem to include any part of Butler county or some of the neighboring counties; but as these charters carry the right of eminent domain (barring grave yards and churches) are good "on, over or under" any street or public highway, not already taken, are perpetual, if used within nine years; and are without consideration to either town or country, charters covering all Western Pennsylvania are probably on file or in course of preparation.

"Throughout the State, in the cities and towns and on the highways connecting them, corporations can be formed under this act to hold up every legitimate enterprise and demand tribute of it.

This is the essential purport of the whole vicious scheme. It is not to promote railway building. It is to seize upon public franchises and use them for private gain or for the furtherance of political combinations, without any advantage whatever to the people.

With all the abuses of corporate power that are justly complained of, there has not hitherto been such an exhibition of greed as this. Franchises have been granted lawfully to corporations that at least promised to perform some useful service and gave some security of compliance with their undertakings and some compensation for their privileges. The corporations formed under these acts are required to give no security and no compensation, and are not bound to the performance of anything. They need not even give notice of their purposes. They need make no actual investment, except in political influence, to become themselves invested with the sovereign powers of the Commonwealth to employ as they will, to obstruct or to crush, as well as to construct or promote, as their political or personal interests may be served.

Such powers as these ought not to be given to anybody. It makes it no better that the consent of the local authorities must be obtained to make the franchise effective, for the local authorities ought not to be empowered to part with their own lawful control, and to make such franchises a subject of bargain and sale in the City Councils, for private and not for public gain, but adds to the iniquity.

If there were an honest desire to improve or enlarge the corporation laws of the State to meet the modern requirements of rapid transit, the work could have been undertaken openly and carefully and with regard for the public advantage."

HARRISBURG.

Last Friday all the hotels of Harrisburg were filled with people carrying applications for railway charters in their pockets, and Quay and some of his political family were at the Governor's house.

In the House that day a large number of appropriation bills were passed. Several members disputed Chief Clerk Garvin's tally on the bill appropriating $50 000 to the Lackawanna hospital.

Mr. Corry protested against the way Reed crooked work at the clerk, and from his place at the Speaker's desk the clerk almost shouted:

"I will wring your skinny neck, you

Mr. Corry continued [illegible]

[illegible] Corry [illegible]

[illegible] Corry [illegible]

[illegible] Corry