

Republican News Item

CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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"FIRST OF ALL--THE NEWS."

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(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, March 13.--There has been considerable discussion of the question of the propriety of the Republican organizations of the several counties of the state insisting upon candidates for nomination for congress, the state senate and the assembly pledging themselves if elected to abide by the action of Republican caucuses. It is manifest that those who oppose such action have an ulterior purpose in so doing. Throughout the entire state there has not been a single Republican county committee which has declined to adopt such a resolution whenever it has been offered. The latest county to act in this respect was Lebanon, which on Saturday last, through the Republican county committee, decided to make every aspirant for congressional or state legislative nominations append his signature to a pledge to abide by the action of all Republican caucuses. The offering of a motion of this character was quite a surprise to the local insurgents. They did not expect anything of the kind in Lebanon, where they thought they were in control of affairs political. Their success in a previous contest in the county made them imagine that they would have everything their own way. They have discovered that there has been a great change in sentiment and that the Republicans of Lebanon do not propose to indorse the action of men who, while elected as Republicans, refuse to abide by the rules and traditions of their party. They recognize that a caucus is a prime necessity of any political organization. The American republic is founded upon the principle of majority rule. With this principle ignored all would be discord and anarchy.

CAUCUSES IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

To preserve the integrity of the Republican organization of the United States and to sustain the McKinley administration it was necessary to call a caucus of the Republican members of the house of representatives at Washington last week, when the Puerto Rican bill was under consideration. It was believed to be absolutely necessary, if the policies of the Republican party were to be carried out, to have the Republicans of the house vote as a unit. There was a difference of opinion, even between the president and the ways and means committee, as to the best method of treatment of the question of tariff for Puerto Rico. There was a very serious division in the house and enough Republicans were ready to join with the Democrats to defeat the very ends which the McKinley administration sought to obtain. Under these circumstances a Republican caucus was called, and a conclusion was reached by which every Republican in the house voted in accordance with the action of the caucus. This was not an unusual action, but a time honored practice.

When General Henderson was proposed for the present speakership of the house of representatives at Washington, there was a big field of aspirants for that honor. But when he secured a majority of the Republican caucus all the other candidates gracefully abided by the action of the majority and he was elected without trouble. Had the friends of the rival candidates for the speakership followed the example of the Flinn-Martin insurgents in Pennsylvania politics they would have bolted the Republican caucus and joined forces with the Bryanite Democrats. Then if they could not get one of their own number in the speakership they would have elected a Democrat to that important place.

Caucuses in congress and every other legislative body in the United States are considered essential, and they are invariably called in the interest of either the Republican or Democratic party, as the case may be. The caucus is a recognized institution in American politics and men who take pride in the success of a political organization to which they belong will always advocate the holding of the caucus to preserve the integrity and advance the interests of such organization. If personal interests and not the welfare of a party or organization are considered they will, of course, take a different view of the case.

Paid agents of the Flinn-Martin insurgents and bolters are traveling around Pennsylvania with the intention of breaking up this time honored custom and sowing discord in the Republican ranks. When men are to be placed in office in the various counties of the commonwealth primary elections are held. A primary election is really a caucus. Voters choose either delegates to a convention, or, in some counties, directly between candidates. When these candidates once have been nominated they become the candidates of the entire party. There is no other way of selecting them, and when party voters refuse to be governed by the will of the majority they become bolters. It is just as necessary for party caucuses to be held at Harrisburg when a United States senator is to be elected as it is for counties to hold primaries or for congressmen to caucus over the selection of a speaker. In the last legislative session a regular caucus of Republican members was called, and Senator Quay was made the nominee. In no other way could the wishes of

the majority have been discovered. Certain enemies of Quay refused to consent to majority rule, and formed a bolting party of their own. The result was chaos. It is now proposed by the insurgents to set up candidates in various districts who, while pretending to be Republicans, will refuse to unite with the Republican majority unless that majority should happen to go their way.

Such methods do not commend themselves to honest men. If a candidate takes a party nomination it is his duty to sink his individual preference and abide by the majority decision. If it were not for the caucus 20 different Republican candidates might be named for senator, and in such a state of affairs it might well be that the Democrats would elect their candidate to office. As a matter of fact, it is very well known that the Democrats will have a candidate for senator in the next legislature, Colonel James M. Gurfey, and they will act together, and it is also very well known that the insurgents, when they cannot elect men of their own way of thinking to the legislature will undertake to elect Democratic members. The insurgent movement today is a Democratic movement. Republicans of Pennsylvania must know that if they lend their aid to the nomination of candidates who will not agree to act with the majority of the Republican party that they will be giving their support directly to a Democrat already picked out. All Republicans have a right, as have all Democrats, to their own individual opinion and preferences, but when their party has taken a stand through a conference known as a caucus their duty is to obey the voice of the majority. A member who sets his own opinion above the opinion of the majority of his party associates after a fair and square vote has made the majority will manifest becomes a mere party wrecker.

WHEER MCKINLEY LEADS.

The Republican caucus in Washington fixed upon the terms of the Puerto Rican bill and President McKinley, good Republican that he is, refrained from pressing his own personal views, and gave all his influence to the adoption of the caucus measure. Where President McKinley leads no genuine Republican in Pennsylvania need fear to follow. President McKinley believes in the caucus, for it is the only way by which a great political party can act unitedly and successfully. Men in Pennsylvania claiming to be Republicans who refuse to follow McKinley are not Republicans at all. In advocating candidates for the legislature who will not abide by Republican caucuses they are advocating party wrecking and could they have their way, the legislature would be handed over to the Democrats, and all important legislation would be made impossible.

No candidate for the legislature in Pennsylvania should be nominated unless he will agree to abide by the decisions of the Republican majority.

SUSQUEHANNA-BRADFORD-WAYNE.

With counties like Lebanon following the lead of Indiana, Chester and other counties where the stalwarts have recently won great popular victories, there can not be much consolation in current events for men of the Flinn-Martin school of rule or ruin politics in Pennsylvania. Following the great stalwart sweep at the Republican primaries of Mercer, Lawrence, Armstrong, Bradford and Lancaster, other counties have been lining up with the regular organization.

Susquehanna held a Republican county convention last week at Montrose, and unanimously renominated George B. Tully for state representative, who throughout the late session of the legislature voted for the Republican caucus nominee for United States senator. They placed on the ticket with him another stalwart Republican, George H. Hill. They named three delegates to the state convention, R. B. Little, George Palmer and G. S. Tingle, all of whom are closely identified with the regular Republican organization. The convention went on record in favor of the renomination of Congressman Wright. There was not even a show of insurgent opposition.

On the same day the Bradford county Republican convention met at Towanda to carry out the instructions of the Republican voters who participated at the primaries. It was a great gathering of loyal Republicans. They adopted ringing resolutions indorsing the administration of President McKinley and Governor Stone, and especially commended the fidelity with which the officials of the state have discharged their duties. C. S. Means, M. C. Holcomb, O. B. Ballard, L. H. March and G. Lancaster were chosen delegates to the Republican state convention, and were instructed to advocate the nomination of E. B. Hardenbergh for auditor general. Instructions were given the conferees to support John H. Brown for presidential elector and F. L. Kinner for delegate to the Republican national convention.

On Saturday last the Republicans of Wayne county held their primaries and they went on record as sustaining the regular Republican state organization, Governor Stone and his administration and the stalwart leadership in Pennsylvania politics generally.

The death of Congressman Harmer, of this city, last week removed a familiar figure from the politics of the state and nation. Congressman Harmer represented the Fifth congressional district, and his term of continuous service in the house was longer than that of any other member. He accordingly was known as the "Father of the house." General H. H. Bingham, of the First district of this city, who succeeds him as "Father of the house," is one of the stalwart Republican leaders of the state. He is a close personal friend of President McKinley, having served with him in the Union army, and is an ardent supporter of Colonel M. S. Quay. General Bingham was born in Philadelphia in 1841; was educated at Jefferson college, studied law, entered the Union army as a Lieutenant in the One Hundred and Fortieth Pennsylvania volunteers, was wounded at Gettysburg in 1863, at Spottsylvania in 1864 and at Farmville in 1865. He was mustered out of the service in July, 1866, as brevet brigadier general of volunteers. He was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in March, 1867, and resigned in December, 1875; was delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention held in Philadelphia in 1872, and has been a district delegate to nearly every Republican national convention held since that time. He has been a member of the house since his election to the Forty-sixth congress.

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Williamsport & North Branch Railroad TIME TABLE.

Table with columns for Read down, Corrected to February 22 1900, and Read up. Includes stations like Halls, Pennsdale, Hughesville, etc.

Connection with Phila. & Reading at Halls

For Philadelphia, New York and intermediate stations--Leave Williamsport 7:42 a.m., 10:00 a. m., Arrive Halls 7:59 a.m.

10:19 a. m. For Shamokin and intermediate stations--leave Williamsport 4:30 p. m.; arrive Halls 4:51 p. m.

From Phila., New York and intermediate stations--leave Phila. 10:21 a. m. and 11:36 p.m.; leave New York via Phila. 7:30 a.m. 9:00 p.m.; leave New York via Tamona, 9:10 a.m. Arrive Halls, 6:34 a.m. and 5:21 p. m.

From Shamokin and intermediate stations--leave Shamokin 8:10 a. m. Arrive Halls 9:49 a. m.

Connecting with L. V. R.R. at Satterfield. For Towanda and intermediate stations, leave Wilkesbarre 3:05 p. m.; arrive at Satterfield 6:25 p. m.

For Towanda and intermediate stations, leave Bernice 6:40 a.m.; arrive Satterfield 7:04 a. m.

For Wilkesbarre and intermediate stations--leave Towanda 6:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; arrive Satterfield, 7:52 a. m. 1:04 p. m.

STAGE LINES Stage leaves Hughesville post office for Lairdsville, Mengwe and Philipsdale daily

Wilson, Beaver Lake and Fribly on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11:30

Stage leaves Glen Mawr for Hills Grove and Forksville at 11:02 a. m.

Stage leaves Muncy Valley for Unityville, North Mountain and Lungerville dail at 11:19 a. m.

Passengers taking trains at flag stations can secure train excursion tickets from the conductors.

Philadelphia & Reading, Lehigh Valley and New York Central mileage will be accepted only for through passengers traveling from Halls to Satterfield or Satterfield to Halls.

The general offices of the company are located at Hughesville, Pa.

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Buckwheat Flour 100 pounds, \$1.80. Yellow Corn per 100 pounds 90c.

Corn Meal or Cracked Corn 90c. Corn, Oats and Barley Chop 90c.

Wheat Bran 200 pounds \$1.50. Flour middlings, 140 pound sack \$1.40.

Fine middlings 200 pounds \$1.60. Flour per sack \$1.00.

Winter Roller per sack \$1.00. Good Flour 90c.

Rye Flour 25 pounds, 50c. Graham Flour 12 1/2 pounds 30c.

Common Fine Salt per barrel \$1.20.

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