Republican News Item CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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second-class mail matter. (Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, March 13.—There has been considerable discussion of the question of the propriety of the Repub-lican organizations of the several counties of the state insisting upon candidates for nomination for con-gress, the state senate and the as-sembly pledging themselves if elected to abide by the action of Republican caucuses. It is manifest that those who oppose such action have an ul-terior purpose in so doing. Through-out the entire state there has not been a single Republican county committee which has declined to adopt such a resolution whenever it has been of-fered. The latest county to act in this respect was Lebanon, which on Sat-urday 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 char-acter was quite a surprise to the local insurgent Republicans. They did not expect anything of the kind in Leb-anon, where they though they were in control of affairs political. Their success in a previous contest in the 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 me who, while elected as Repub-licans, refuse to abide by the rules and traditions of their party. They recog-nize 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 dignored all would be discord and anarchy. CAUCUSES IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

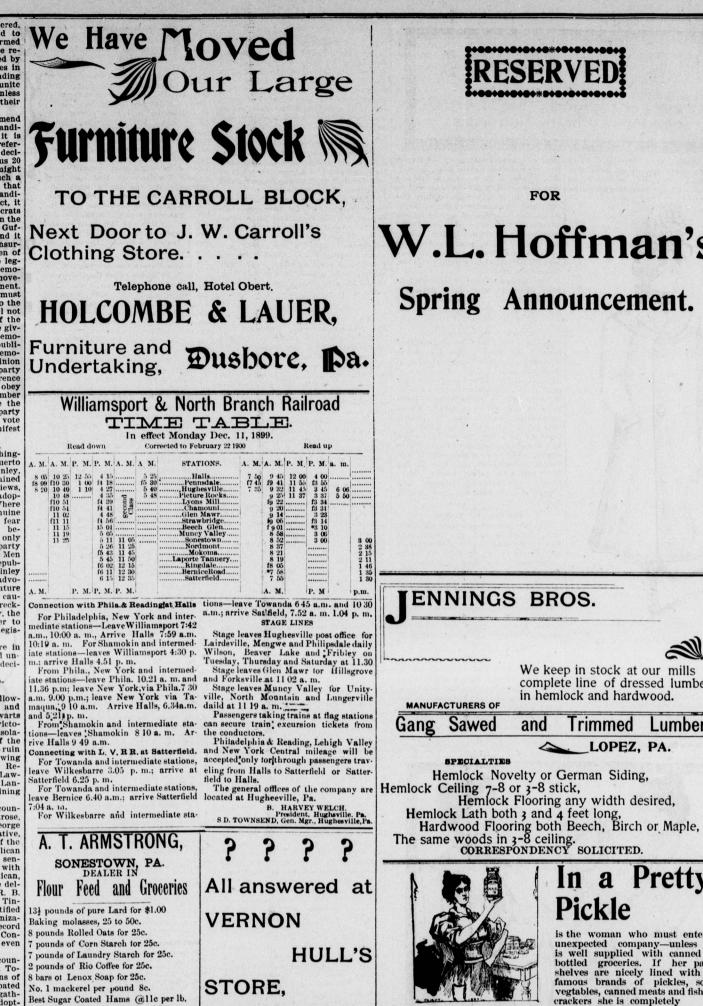
and anarchy. CAUCUSES IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

principle ignored all would be discord and anarchy. CAUCUSES IN NATIONAL POLITICS. To preserve the integrity of the Re-publican organization of the United States and to sustain the McKinley ad-ministration it was necessary to call a caucus of the Republican members of the house of representatives at Wash-ington last week, when the Puerto Rican bill was under consideration. It was believed to be absolutely neces-sary, 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 opin-ion, even between the president and the ways and means committee, as to 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 defact the very ends which the Mc-Kinley administration sought to ob-tain. 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 eacus. This was not an unusual ac-tion, but a time honored practice. When General Henderson was pro-posed for the present speakership of the hofse of representatives at Wash-ington, there was a big field of as-pirants for that honor. But when he secured a majority of the Republican and the due friends of the rival candidates for the speakership followed to surgents in Pennylvania polities they would have bolted the Republican eacus and joined forces with the Bry-anite Democrats. Then if they could not get one of their own number in the speakership they would have elected a bemocrat 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 in-terest of either the Republican or Democratic party, as the case may be.

the majority have been discovered, Certain enemies of Quay refused to consent to majority rule, and formed a bolting party of their own. The re-sult 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.

Way.
Such methods do not commend themselves to honest men. If a candidate takes a party nomination it is his duity to sink his individual preference and abide by the majority declosion. If it were not for the caucus 20 different Republican candidates might be name for senator, and in such a state of affairs it might well be that the Democratis would elect their candidate to office. As a matter of fact, it is very well known that the Democratis will have a candidate for senator in the next legislature. Colonel James M. Gurfer, 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 movement. Republicans of Pennsylvania must know that it the majority of the Republican party that they will be giving their support directly to a Democratic novement. All Republicans have a right, as have all Democratis conferences how mindividual 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 the Puertor fican bill and President McKinley, for directly to a conference in the caucus in Washing- for fican bill and President McKinley, so differences, for the legislature would be mande of party and the caucus in the supervised and the distribution of the majority. A member who refuse to follow. President McKinley belives in the caucus for fit is the only way by which a great political party wrecking and, could they have their way, the legislature would be manded or provide the previous of follow. President McKinley belives in the caucus for the legislature who will not abide by Kegublican caucus ways by which a great political party wrecking and, could they have their way, the legislature would be manded or provention the stalwarts republicans in Pennsylvania a claiming to be Republican conteris of Merce, Lewing the

administrations 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. Hol-comb, O. B. Ballard, L. H. March and G. Lancaster were chosen delegates to the Republican state convention, and were instructed to advocate the nomi-nation of E. B. Hardenbergh for audi-tor general. Instructions were given the conferrees to support John H. Brown for presidential elector and F. L. Kinner for delegate to the Republi-can national convention. On Saturday last the Republicans of can 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 Pennsyl-vania nolitics generaliz and the stalwart leadership in Pennsyl-vania politics generally. The death of Congressman Harmer, of this city, last week removed a famil-iar figure from the politics of the state and nation. Congressman Harmer, and district, and his term of continuous service in the house was longer than that of any other member. He accord-ingly was known as the "Father of the house." General H. H. Bingham, of the First district of this city, who suc-ceeds him as "Father of the house," is of the state. He is a close personal friend of President McKinley, having serviced with him in the Union army, and is an ardent supporter of Colonel born in Philadelphia in 181; was edu-cated at Jefferson college, studied law, entered the Union army as a lieuten-ant in the One Hundred and Fortleth Pennsylvania volunteers, was wound-ed at Gettysburg in 1863, at Spottsyl-vania in 1864 and at Farmville in 1865. Huwas mustered out of the service in July 1866, as brevet brigadier general of volunteers. He was appointed post-master of Philadelphia in 1875; was diceaded in December, 1875; was diceade-at-large to the Republican na-tional convention held in Philadelphia in 1872, and has been a district del-egate to nearly very Republican ma-tional convention held since that time. He has been a member of the house since his election to the Forty-sixth congress. vania politics generally.



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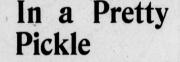
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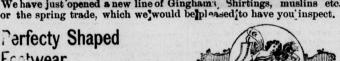
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Democratic party, as the case may be. The caucus is a recognized institu-tion in American politics and men who take pride in the success of a po-litical organization to which they be-

long will always advocate the holding long will always advocate the holding of the caucus to preserve the integrity and advance the interests of such or-ganization. If personal interests and not the welfare of a party or organiza-tion are considered they will, of course, take a different view of the case. Paid agents of the Film-Martin in-surgents and bolters are traveling around Pennsylvania with the inten-tion of breaking up this time honored custom and sowing discord in the Re-

custom and sowing discord in the Re-

tion of breaking up this time honored custom and sowing discord in the Re-publican ranks. When men are to be placed in office in the various counties of the common-wealth primary elections are held. A primary election is really a caucus. Voters choose either delegates to a convention, or, in some counties, di-rectly between candidates. When these candidates once have been nominated they become the candidates of the en-tire 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 Uni-ted 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

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