

Republican News Item

CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor. THURSDAY, APR. 26, 1900.

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Hardenbergh Has a Walkover For Auditor General, and There is a Lively Scramble For Congressman-at-Large, With Two Candidates to Be Named.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, April 24.--The Republican state convention, which will be held here tomorrow, has attracted a great crowd of enthusiastic party men.

They have assembled from every county in the state, and the indications are that the convention will be one of the most interesting held here for some time.

The leading hotels and many business houses are beautifully decorated, and bands of music are playing merrily. The several candidates for honors from the convention have opened headquarters, and each has a corps of boomers at work among the delegates.

The principal headquarters are at the Lochiel hotel, where General Frank Reeder, chairman of the Republican state committee, has established his headquarters.

He is assisted in his plans for the convention by T. Larry Pyre, his chief of staff, and Secretaries Wesley R. Andrews and Charles E. Voorhees. Attorney General John P. Elkin, former Senator Israel W. Durham of Philadelphia, Major Levi McCauley of West Chester, Senator James G. Mitchell of Jefferson, Representative William H. Keyser of Philadelphia and other leading men are active in the canvass for the nomination of their favorite candidates for congressman-at-large.

There is apparently no doubt about the nomination of Senator E. B. Hardenbergh, of Wayne county, for auditor general. He has no opposing candidate to date.

Senator Hardenbergh is one of the best known Republicans in the state. He has for years been identified with stalwart Republicanism, and he has labored zealously for the success of the Republican candidates.

His nomination for auditor general will be a fit and proper recognition of his party services. Senator Hardenbergh was born at Wilsonville, Wayne county, July 31, 1845.

He was educated at the public schools and learned the business of railroading. He began at the bottom of the ladder, and from brakeman to conductor was a natural promotion after years of faithful services.

He is at present engaged as a traveling instructor of conductors for the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad company. His active life brought him in contact with many of his constituents and he was finally given a Republican nomination for the house of representatives. He was there always regarded as a champion of the workmen, as he was in a position to recognize their needs in the matter of legislation.

He served in the house in the sessions of 1885 and 1887, and in 1894 was elected to the state senate by the largest Republican majority ever given a candidate in that district.

He has been a member of the senate ever since. He has been an attentive and faithful member of the legislature and is popular throughout the state. He has filled the offices of chairman of the Republican county committee and has been a delegate to several state conventions and represented his district at the Republican national convention at St. Louis in 1896.

Senator Hardenbergh is a member of a number of organizations of workmen.

There is something of a scramble for the nomination of congressman-at-large, for which two candidates will be named.

Congressman-at-large Davenport, of Erie, is not a candidate for renomination, but Galusha A. Grow is quite ambitious to succeed himself.

PHILADELPHIA FOR FOERDERER.

The Philadelphia delegation is here with a strong contingent of the Quaker City Republicans, who are insisting upon the nomination of Robert H. Foerderer, a well known manufacturer of that city, for congressman-at-large.

The delegation has endorsed his candidacy and several hundred stalwarts are here with a brass band and with badges, working like beavers in his behalf.

Mr. Foerderer has not been an aspirant for the nomination, but he recently indicated to some friends that were the nomination to come to him he would accept.

He has not been actively identified with politics, although always a consistent and loyal Republican. He has large business interests and has many admirers among the members of the Union League, the Manufacturers' club and kindred organizations.

He is regarded as one of Philadelphia's most progressive and wide awake citizens, and has frequently been prominent in movements which had for their purpose the advancement of the interests of this city and state.

At the age of 16 years Robert H. Foerderer began his business career in a morocco factory. While his father was the owner of the establishment he entered the plant as an humble beginner and took his chances of promotion with the other workmen.

This was the result of his own determination as well as of parental advice. After mastering all the details of the trade he eventually went into the business on his own account. He is today the owner of one of the largest manufacturing plants of glazed kid in the world.

Mr. Foerderer was born in Frankenhoven, Germany, on May 16, 1860. His parents were frugal and industrious people, who, when he was an infant, immigrated to America and located in this city. They sent the lad to the public schools and afterwards to a

private academy. It was in May, 1885, that the son began business in a small way and his success has been remarkable. He has been identified with other interests in a financial way and is looked upon as a typical and progressive Philadelphian. He is a director in several financial institutions and he is also identified with some of the leading social clubs. He has never held any public office. He is thoroughly familiar with the needs of Philadelphia harbor, not only on account of his being a large shipper, but by reason of his interest in the general welfare of the trade in the port.

Supporters of Mr. Foerderer are distributing copies of resolutions which were passed by the Philadelphia delegation which read:

Whereas, The city of Philadelphia, the metropolis of our great commonwealth, with a population numbering over a million and a half of people, conservative, well governed and happy in their prosperity, with her diversified industries, her manufactures and commercial standing (they being second to none in the whole country), with her capital and her labor seeking and finding new fields for investment and employment, has the right to claim recognition at the hands of the Republican party, which she has always sustained with larger majorities than any other city in the sisterhood of states; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the duly elected delegates from the city of Philadelphia to the Republican state convention, this day assembled, that we heartily endorse the candidacy of Robert H. Foerderer for the office of congressman-at-large, and earnestly solicit the active co-operation of our Republican friends throughout the state, and ask them to join with us in making this representative citizen one of our standard bearers in the campaign of 1900.

Our candidate is one of the most substantial and respected citizens of our great city. He has kept pace with the development and growth of her industrial and commercial interests, a successful business man himself, a large employer of labor, which labor has steady employment and earns good wages, and being deeply interested in all that pertains to the business, industrial and social interests of our city and state, we feel that he is peculiarly fitted to represent us in the national congress. We, therefore, present him to the people of the commonwealth as a candidate for the high office as one worthy of their respect, confidence and support.

The supporters of Mr. Foerderer are not antagonizing Mr. Grow, but are making a canvass on their own account. It is probable that Mr. Grow will be renominated and that the ticket will read Foerderer and Crow. There is, however, a lively scramble going on with former Congressman Arnold of Clearfield, Dr. Flood of Crawford and John B. Steel of Westmoreland also in the running. George T. Oliver, of Allegheny, withdrew a few days ago.

TAX REDUCED, NOT PUT ON.

"The question then was how further we could raise revenue without directly taxing the property of the island to meet this deficiency; and we found that we could, in our opinion, best accomplish this by leaving a light tariff duty upon the commerce between the United States and Puerto Rico; and so we finally concluded, and provided in the bill, that, instead of absolute free trade, which all desired, as well as the president, we would, for a short time, until the local government could be put in operation and devise a system of taxation for its support, reduce the tariff and dutiable goods coming from Puerto Rico into the United States only 85 per cent, instead of entirely remitting it, and that we would, for the present, allow all food products and necessities of life, farm implements, machinery, etc., to enter Puerto Rico free of duty; but on other articles, whatever they might be, we would reduce the Dingley rates only 85 per cent. You hear constantly of our putting on commerce with Puerto Rico a tariff of 15 per cent, when the truth is we removed all but 15 per cent. We did not add or increase, but reduced and remitted.

"We expressly provided, however, that on and after March 1, 1902, there shall be absolute free trade between Puerto Rico and the United States, and that there shall be such free trade sooner--in a year--six months, or ninety days, possibly--whenever the local government shall have provided otherwise for its necessary revenues, and that, in the meanwhile, all collections, both those to be made in Puerto Rico and those to be made in the United States, shall be paid over to Puerto Rico for the support of its government without placing an additional burden upon the already overburdened lands and property of the island.

"No such liberal and generous government as to revenues was ever given by this nation or any other to any territory or colony. It far surpassed all recommendations and all expectations. It should be further stated that an analysis of the articles constituting this trade shows that this tax so imposed would be borne almost exclusively by the sugar and tobacco interests, more able than others to bear it without feeling any burden.

"In Puerto Rico we allow the people to elect the lower house of the legislature, and give them representation by appointment in the upper house, and in all other departments of their government.

"The provision that the upper house of their legislative assembly shall be appointed by the president is due to the fact that among its members are the bureau officers, upon whom will devolve the responsible duty of organizing all the departments of that government, and upon whom we must rely to make that government as nearly American as possible.

"In no other way could we safely proceed to secure the necessary ability and experience for such work.

"Like everything else the Republican party undertakes, we propose to make of this a success--a success for Puerto Rico and a success for the United States, and when that has been done we shall only be too glad to increase the participation of the Puerto Ricans in the conduct of their government as rapidly as they are found equal to its demands, and nobody will be happier than we when we can give the whole matter to themselves. I hope and believe that the day is not far distant, but it would not be kindness to Puerto Rico to do that now.

At the close of the day the delegates to the convention adjourned to the hotel where they were held.

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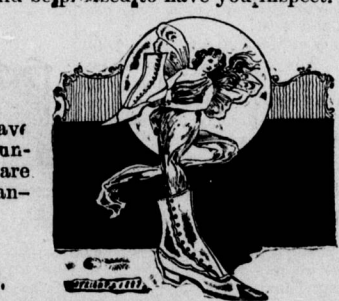
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