Republican News Hem CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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Harrisburg, June 12.-Col. M. S. Quay has once more done exactly what his political opponents preferred that he would not do. He has placed his ene-mies again on the defensive. The Beaver statesman has come out in a sweeping public declaration in favor of ballot reform, for personal registra-tion in the cities, and for a constitu-tional convention to be held at the earliest possible date, to make such changes in the fundamental law of the commonwealth as shall be deemed neccommonweath as snail be deemed nec-essary to accomplish the proposed re-forms. Since the publication of Col. Quay's utterance upon this subject the insurgents have attempted to question the sincerity of his position, but the immediate and conclusive answer to their partisan talk lies in the fact that Col. Quay proposes that the people themselves shall determine the issue, and that the solution of the problem of ballot reform shall not be left to the whims of a state legislature, but that the people shall have an opportunity to vote upon the question and se-lect representatives who shall be chosen for the special purpose of carrying out the reforms contemplated.

COL. QUAY'S STATEMENT. This is what Senator Quay has to say over his own signature in a statement which he prepared at Mountville, Lancaster county, on the farm of his son, Major A. G. C. Quay:

"The existing ballot law and its amendments were favored by the Ballot Reform association, were *supported by all political parties. were passed by a Republican legislature and signed by a Democratic governor. If they are bad the responsibility for them appears to be pretty evenly divided. The simple truth is that, so far as secrecy of the ballot is concerned, they are as near an approach to the ideal Australian ballot as can be made by the legislature under our constitution

"Taking a very low view of it, the Republican party stands for a pure ballot everywhere. In Penn-sylvania there could be no motive on the part of the dominant party to encourage or permit any perversion or suppression of the popular will, for the reason that the popular will is overwhelmingly Republican, and its fair and full expres-sion, according to law, is all that can be desired. Immediately after the enactment of the Baker law and its approval by Governor Pat-tison the Republican state convention declared that if the law should be found insufficient to insure fair elections the Republican party stood pledged to amend the consti-tution so as to provide for a more complete and satisfactory reform. RADICAL CHANGE DEMANDED.

"The law has now been tested by experience, and it has been shown that great abuses are possible under it. The disability clause cannot be enforced against a constitu-tional provision authorizing a voter to take another into the booth to attest his ticket, and this facilitation of vote buying and intimidating, together with our loose registration, constitute an election system which does not commend itself to the people of the state and which has become the subject of general complaint. The system should be radically changed. The constitution should be so amended as to allow compulsory personal

registration in cities, and a secret

ballot which cannot be influenced against the will of the voter. To

this change, as already said, the Republican party stands pledged

by its platform of 1893.

"The amendments passed by the last legislature, vetoed by the governor, and which if again passed by the legislature will be submitted to the people, are subject to many chances in the long process requir-ed to put them in the constitution, and especially when they are not mandatory, but only permissive, and must depend upon the disposi-tion of future legislatures for proper laws to effect the reforms which they allow, but do not command. They involve considerable expense, with no certainty whatever of def-inite results, even after their adoption, and the passage of many years. It was probably with some such views that the governor sought to arrest them, and give the people of the commonwealth time

the desired result. "If this change in the election laws of the state be really desired by the people the sooner it is effected the better.

to consider some more practical and effective method of reaching

"If it can be accomplished quickly, surely and radically by a constitutional convention—and by a con-

stitutional convention only—which shall be called and the members shall be called and the members chosen for the express purpose. I take it that when a reform—and certainly, a reform touching the state in so vital a point—is demanded by a respectable number of citizens, it is the plain duty of the degislature to ascertain whether or not a majority of the whole people demand it, and, if so, to put it in the simplest and speedlest way of accomplishment. We can ascertain the will of the people only-by submitting the question to them at the polls.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

"If the legislature to be elected in November will frame a fair, non-partisan constitutional convention bill, like that of 1872, early in the session and then submit the question of convention or no convention under that act, to be voted upon at the spring elections, the whole matter would be put in course of immediate and proper determination according to the public will. The delegates would be elected at the spring election or at a special election. This appears to be not only right, but eminently just and conservative. There would be not danger of revolutionary innovations. The people would decide whether or not there should be a convention; they would elect the members and they would accept or reject the amended instrument at the polls. The delegates being elected—should the people resolve upon a convention, primarily to consider election reforms—would proceed to put the reforms required into the constitution itself, and, if any part of the new machinery should be left to the legislature, the language would be, unlike that of pending amendments, mandatory, and leave no room for evasion.

"The difficulty of securing reforms in the legislature, where any discretion is allowed that body, is well-known. The variety of interests represented in that body, and the existence of two houses, to concur, with the executive in the background, make the passage of any given measure, in acceptable shape, exceedingly problematical.

"The Republican party has suffered more than once from its inability to promptly execute promised reforms by legislative action. A convention being a single body elected for specific purposes; and, naturally embodying the highest learning and integrity of the commonwealth, would doubtless perform promptly and well the duty devolved upon it.

(Signed) "M. S. QUAY."

REEDER AND COOPER SPEAK.

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Not only has Col. Quay taken this stand, but influential leaders of the Republican organization throughout the state have come out for the most advanced method of accomplishing the desired reforms in connection with the ballot. Gen. Frank Reeder, chairman of the Republican state committee, has asserted that the Republican organization will lead in the movement for such changes in existing laws as shall be deemed desirable, and that throughout the commonwealth the active Republicans will work shoulder to shoulder to fulfill any pledges that may be made by the state organization intended to stop abuses at elections. The state chairman holds that the Republican party has always been the champion of a pure ballot and a secret one, and that in a great majority of the election precincts throughout the state the intent of the framers of the present law is faithfully carried out. He

and that in a great majority of the election precincts throughout the state the intent of the framers of the present law is faithfully carried out. He admits that there has been objections found to the operation of the law in some of the cities, and says the Republican party can be counted upon to meet the demands of the people in remedying existing evils.

Former State Chairman Thomas V. Cooper, who is a nominee for the legislature in Delaware county, and who was nominated without opposition, although he is an avowed supporter of Col. Quay, has gone on record as one of the leaders of the ballot reform movement. Among other things he said, in a recent statement:

"It is a public duty to make it more and constantly more difficult to violate the election law. In the evolution of law seeking something better, both will come if our vote can determine the matter. It can be truthfully said that we believe in and act with the party organization. We do; we shall. It is only through organization that anything worth doing for the people can be done. It is not always enough, nowadays, and where masses are concerned, to be right; we must be in the best possible position to aid the right. The best position is within an organization, within the largest and best or-

nowadays, and where masses are concerned, to be right; we must be in the best position to aid the right. The best position is within an organization, within the largest and best organization. There we can battle for the right to some purpose; outside, we are useless as a rule. There are revolutionary exceptions, but they are too rare for our brief lives. As part of the great Republican organization we will strive for better election laws, for the amendments proposed, for laws to enforce them, and if possible to improve them. If these can be reached we will be thankful for the opportunity to favor their application to all our elections—general, spring, special and the primaries of all parties. * * * "The Municipal League is justly proud of its triumph in securing the opportunity to vote upon two amendments looking to better things. We are not of that organization, but we must share its pride and will try to help it in this work. Our only regret is that the state must wait five years for other amendments. We have no fear but that the Republican organization will also join in the work. It has no interest will try to change what is a general propose for the public good. Of course false counters will oppose, but these are after all only a few hirelings of varied interests. The Municipal League is preparing to question candidates for the legislature. It has our answer in advance. We are for better things, for constant advancement to higher and better forms of government, and these can best be secured by the co-operation of all who have good purposes in view, without regard to fact the organization for party."

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Furniture and Dushore, Pa. Undertaking,

Williamsport & North Branch Railroad TIME TABLE

In effect Monday June 11, 1900.

Read down							Canyon		Keau up							
P. M.	A M	Р. м	P M	PM	PM	A. M.	A M	STATIONS.	A M	A M	А. М.	PMP	PM	AM	P 1	
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Sunday	Sunday:	Р. М	5 25	5 16 5 31 f5 48 5 50 f6 07	3 07	11 18 11 33 f 11 50 11 52 f 12 09 f 12 18 12 22 P. M.	8 35	Sonestown Nordmont Mokoma Laporte Ringdale Bernice Road Satterfield		8 50	10 47 10 28 f10 07 10 04 9 49 f 9 40 9 35 A. M.	3 07 3 5 2 53 f2 26 2 34 f2 20 f2 13 2 10	5 9 15		Sunday	

Connection with Phila & Readinglat Halls
For Philadelphia, New York and intermediate stations—Leave Williamsport 7:42
a.m., 10:00 a. m., Sarrive Halls 7:59 a.m.
10:10 a. m. For Shamokin and intermediate stations—leaves Williamsport 4:30 p.
m., Sarrive 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 Tamaqua, 9:10 a.m. Arrive Halls, 6:34a.m.
and 5:211 p. m.
From Shamokin and intermediate stations—leaves Shamokin 8:10 a. m. Arrive Halls 9:49 a.m.
Connecting with L. V. R. R. at Satterfield.

7:04 a. m. For Wilkesbarre and intermediate sta-

Connection with Phila.& Readinglat Halls tions—leave Towarda 645 a.m. and 1030 STAGE LINES

Stage leaves Hughesvill post office for Lairdeville, Mengwe and Philipsdale daily Wilson, Beaver Lake and Fribley on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11.30 Stage leaves Glen Mawr for Hillsgrove and Forksville at 1102 a. m. Stage leaves Muncy Valley for Unityville, North Mountain and Lungerville daild at 1119 a. m. Passengers taking trains at flag stations

maqua, 9 10 a.m. Arrive Halls, 6.34a.m. and 5,215 p. m. Passengers taking trains at flag stations From Shamokin and intermediate stations—leaves Shamokin 8 10 a.m. Arrive Halls 9 49 a.m. Arrive Halls 9 49 a.m. Philadelphia & Reading, Lehigh Valley and New York Central mileage will be 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. B. HARVEY WELCH.

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