

Republican News Item

CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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"FIRST OF ALL--THE NEWS."

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REPUBLICAN NEWS ITEM, LaPorte, Pa.

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Philadelphia, March 17.—While the matter will ultimately have to come before the supreme court, and arrangements are already being made to take it there, the constitutionality of the so-called "ripper" bill has been favorably passed upon by a unanimous opinion of three judges on the Lackawanna county bench. The matter came before them on a test case in Scranton and all the objections made by the Flinn men were presented in the arguments before the court.

So elated are the reformers in Allegheny county over this decision that they are already preparing plans to assume the management of the municipal affairs in Pittsburg and Allegheny City.

OPINION OF THE COURT.

Judge Archbald, president judge, filed the opinion of the Lackawanna court.

It will be remembered that the case here arose upon a writ of quo warranto commanding James Moir to show by what right he exercised the office of city recorder of Scranton. Court says that the principal contention upon which the claim that the act was local and special. Extended reasons were presented in support of this claim, but the judges could not find that they were in any respect sustained. Such a claim loses sight of decision by the courts of this state, and notably the case of Wheeler vs. Philadelphia (77 Pa. 388), which declares that classification by population of the cities of the commonwealth is entirely justified. CITY CLASSIFICATION IS PROPER.

The court refers to the fact that one of the objections to the "ripper" act was that it introduces unusual and unnecessary provisions for the government of cities of the second class not justified by any difference in condition between these and other cities, particularly in that it abolishes the time honored office of mayor and substitutes a new and unknown chief executive called a recorder, who is vested with extraordinary if not dictatorial powers. But, says the court, this argument loses sight of the very purpose of classification, which is to give place for different legislation for each class.

Population, moreover, is recognized as the basis, and, in fact, the only basis for a division in case of cities, the larger cities by the very circumstance of their having a greater number of people presumed to require a government of a different character from those which have less. A great commercial metropolis like Philadelphia, with over 1,200,000 inhabitants, cannot be governed and does not want to be like Pittsburg, Allegheny or Scranton, which have a population ranging from a half to a twelfth as much. Nor, on the other hand, is a scheme of government adapted to these populous and thriving centers likely to prove acceptable or suitable to the remaining cities of the state which have materially less. The law recognizes this and the legislature, acting upon it in the exercise of their discretion, have established three classes of cities with the limits which have been named. This is not open to question, the court says.

NOT OBLIGED TO HAVE A MAYOR.

In pursuance of this there may, therefore, be one set of officers for one and another for another, and the powers and functions of each may vary. They are not obliged to have a mayor any more than they are to have a treasurer or controller or collector of delinquent taxes, however much it may be necessary to lodge the duties usually performed by these well known city officials somewhere. No doubt there must be a chief executive of some sort, and some one to handle and be responsible for the city funds or supervise and control the accounts. But names amount to but little, and we may have these several municipal functions separated and distributed among a number of newly elected officers or consolidated and conferred upon one or more without occasioning comment or calling the other in question. All these are municipal matters, and so long as an act is passed to apply to any one of these established classes of cities confining itself to dealing with affairs of that character, it no more offends against the constitution than if it had to do with all the cities of the state without distinction. POWER OF LEGISLATURE ABSOLUTE.

Continuing this line of argument at considerable length, the court says that in view of the decision cited the only question with regard to city class legislation is whether the subjects embraced are municipal. If they are, it cannot be disturbed, however peculiar or distinctive. The power of the legislature within this limit is absolute. They may give one system of government, as they have here, to one class and another to another, and it is not for the courts to inquire whether either is adapted to the peculiarities of condition to which it is made to apply. And the subjects embraced in the ripper act are declared municipal.

The court dismisses as somewhat trifling the contentions that "the act undertakes to deal specially with the powers and procedures of the courts, and is therefore a special law," and regarding the provisions in the bill concerning policemen and firemen. Coming under the head of the argument also that is special and local legislation is the attack made on the pow-

ers concerned on the recorder appointed by the governor under the provisions of the schedule. These, the court says, it is claimed, are extraordinary and differ essentially from those to be possessed by subsequent incumbents of the office. This may not indeed be usual, but it cannot be said to be irregular or invalid, and whatever may be said in the present instance with regard to its expediency it is entirely within the power of the legislature to do so, and that it may appropriately be so until the people have had opportunity to make a choice is undoubted.

The court then dismisses rather briefly the contention that the act deals with more than one subject, that he should only appoint for one year instead of two. The last contention is set aside by a decision in the case of Com. vs. Gallen, 101 Pa. 375. The objection that the legislature had no power to abolish the office of mayor is apparently not regarded seriously by the court.

Harrisburg, March 19.—Ballot reform has been one of the most interesting matters under discussion here this last week. It is probable that within a few days this issue will come to a head and the Republican leaders will determine upon the character of the bill to be supported as the Republican measure.

It is manifest that a combination has been made between the Flinn insurgents and the Guffey Democrats to advocate the abolition not only of the party column, but the circle also, through which the members of any particular party can by a single cross mark indicate a desire to vote for all the nominees of that particular party. The insurgents and the Democrats have a common purpose to defeat the nominees of the Republican party, and they have argued that the best way to do this is to endeavor to make it as difficult as possible for the Republican party leaders to poll the full strength of the Republican vote in Pennsylvania.

Flinn, who sees that his control of the party machinery in Allegheny county will shortly be taken from him, has apparently no longer any concern for the Republican party's nominees. He feels that his future lies in combinations with the Democracy on fusion deals.

DEMOCRATS WORKING A GAME.

The Democrats are naturally for anything that will be to the disadvantage of the Republican organization, and they have taken up the idea of abolishing the party column and the party circle.

A conference was held here last week, at which Col. Guffey, the Democratic national committeeman from Pennsylvania, met members of the Democratic state executive committee, and they went over the whole situation from the standpoint of practical politicians. They were working solely for the advancement of the interests of the Democracy.

They agreed upon a bill which is to be known as the Guffey bill and which groups all the candidates for any office under one heading and at the same time does away with the circle at the top of the column.

The bill does not differ in other respects materially from the other ballot reform bills which have been introduced. They are all drafted upon the idea of making the ballot secret and the count correct.

FOCHT BILL IS POPULAR.

Republicans are getting to understand the provisions of the bill introduced in the senate by Senator Focht, of Union county, which is based upon the Australian system, and which adopts all the features of that ballot that can properly be employed in Pennsylvania.

Under this bill the names of all the candidates are grouped together under the title of the office for which the said candidates have been nominated, and his party appellation follows the name of each candidate. The bill will not permit any man's name appearing more than once upon the ballot.

This plan reduces the size of the ballot, puts all names in one column and would save many thousands of dollars in the matter of the expense of printing.

The Focht bill recognizes the right of the members of any party entitled to a column under the present law to at least have an opportunity of indicating with one mark the desire to vote for the full ticket of such a party. This feature, many Republicans say, must be included in the provisions of any bill that shall be supported by the members of the Republican organization.

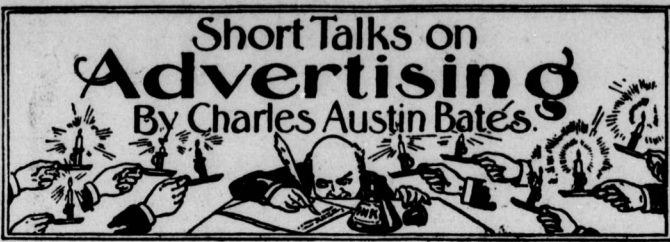
PARTIES MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

The argument is made that a very large percentage of the voters support the straight ticket, whether it be of the Republican, Democratic or Prohibition or some other well organized party. They should not be put to the inconvenience and annoyance of having to mark each candidate for whom they desire to vote. In some cases they would have to make as many as a dozen or more marks. While this plan would be to the advantage of the independents, who would be interested probably in but one or two of these candidates, the regular party man who wished to vote for all the candidates of his party would be put to unnecessary trouble in making many marks on the ballot. In the embarrassments thus following many voters, through mistake, would overlook marking some of the candidates, and thus they would unwittingly be aiding their opponents.

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE GUFFEY'S SCHEME.

It has been discovered that some of the Democrats who believe in party organization are vigorously opposed to the Flinn-Guffey idea of forming a new ballot law. Among these Democrats is P. Gray Meek, of Centre county, one of the best known men in the party. He was the Democratic candidate for auditor general last fall, and was formerly chairman of the Democratic state committee.

Ex-Senator Meek, a member of the state Democratic executive committee, strongly condemns the proposed ballot law. He so informed Col. Guffey and the members of the committee before the executive session began. Division Chairman W. J. Brennen, of Pittsburg, showed Mr. Meek a sample of the proposed ballot.



The first insertion of an advertisement very seldom pays. That is to say—if you have never advertised before in a certain paper it will take some little time for its readers to get acquainted with you, and until they do, don't expect much return. There are occasional exceptions, of course, but they are few and far between. It is the systematic, persistent effort that pays in advertising as in everything else. In taking medicine the regularity of the dose is almost as important as the drug itself.

For that reason the columns of the newspaper offer the very best medium for business announcements. For that reason, programs and wall hangers and schemes of all sorts, from an industrial write-up of the town to a picture card, are never effective. It may be well enough to indulge in a pretty novelty occasionally, if you are using all the space you need in the papers.

I have been a publisher of programs and of other "schemes"—I have advertised in them, and in my whole experience on both sides of the fence, I have never heard or known of a single advertisement in a medium (?) of that kind that paid.

The local newspaper goes into the house bristling with intelligence, brimful of the news of the world, sparkling with the daily doings of the community. If its advertisers are awake to their opportunities it contains business news of value to every reader, for it pays to read advertisements. Advertisements are becoming more truthful every day. Business men know that their news must be true, or it will fail—they remember the story of the boy and the wolf. I think it is safe to say that any woman who makes a business of reading business news—ads.—will increase the buying power of her husband's dollars as much as twenty-five per cent. I am not sure but that the percentage is even greater at my house.



"The local newspaper goes into the home bristling with intelligence."



Remember the story of the boy and the wolf.

Copyright, Charles Austin Bates, New York.

We are now Ready for the Spring Trade.

Bedroom Suits in Oak, Mahogany and Maple, in either four or eight pieces. These goods were bought in a large quantity for cash, so that we can give you a high grade suit at a low grade price.

HOLCOMBE & LAUER,
Furniture and Undertaking, Dushore, Pa.
Telephone call, Hotel Obert.

Spring Goods.
Bright Bargains for Bright Spring Days.
HERE THEY ARE IN ABUNDANCE.

Selling Spring goods is our specialty. We want your business. The early buyers gets the choice. You don't have to haggle about the price, you can use the dollar we save you. Don't wait if you want a careful selection, CASH. We will do a strictly cash business, which will allow us to sell cheaply and give our customers the benefit.



THE NEW LAPORTE CLOTHING STORE.
HAYMAN HERR, Proprietor. HARRY ZAX, Mgr.

Williamsport & North Branch Railroad TIME TABLE.

In effect Monday Nov. 26, 1900.

Read down	Read up
P. M. A. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M.	P. M. A. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M. P. M.
5:20 5:25 5:30 5:43 5:44 4:40 4:53 5:01 5:10 5:16 5:31 5:48 5:50 6:07 6:16 6:20	12:55 1:00 1:10 1:18 1:22 1:24 1:31 1:39 1:45 1:48 1:55 9:22 9:47 9:50 10:10 10:25 10:30
Halls Pennsdel Hughesville Picture Rocks Lyons Mills Chamouni Glen Mawr Strawbridge Beech Glen Muncy Valley Sunsetown Nordmont Mokoma Laporte Ringdale Bernice Road Satterfield	7:35 7:50 9:41 9:53 9:30 9:28 9:22 9:13 9:09 9:06 9:00 8:44 8:27 8:24 8:12 8:04 8:00

Stage leaves Hughesville post office for Lairdsville, Mengew 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 11.02 a. m. Stage leaves Muncy Valley for Unityville, North Mountain and Lungerville daily 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. B. HARVEY WELCH, President, Hughesville, Pa. S. D. TOWNSEND, Gen. Mgr., Hughesville, Pa.

ARE YOU GOING TO BUILD A NEW HOUSE
OR LAY NEW FLOORS IN THE OLD ONE?
If so, it will pay you to get some of our **Hard Wood Flooring**
Kiln dried, matched sides and ends, Hollow backed and bored, MAPLE and BEECH.
It will out wear two ordinary floors and is much smoother, nicer and easier to put down than soft wood flooring. All sizes kept in stock by
Jennings Bros., Lopez, Pa.
Also all sizes in hemlock lumber, siding, ceiling, lath etc.

In a Pretty Pickle
is the woman who must entertain unexpected company—unless she is well supplied with canned and bottled groceries. If her pantry shelves are nicely lined with our famous brands of pickles, soups, vegetables, canned meats and fish and crackers she is completely ready for any emergency. What shall we send you to-day?
ON DRY GOODS WE ARE IN THE LEAD
WHY? Because we carry the Largest and Best line in the county Because we have only new and attractive patterns to show Because you will find no old goods on our shelves.
We have just opened a new line of Gingham, Shirts, muslins etc., or the spring trade, which we would be pleased to have you inspect.
Perfectly Shaped Footwear
for women and men. We have a stock of women's shoes that is unequalled hereabouts. The shapes are dainty, the leather fine, the workmanship exquisite, and the fit perfect. Prices are right.
Cash Paid for Country Produce.
E. G. Sylvara DUSHORE,

Shoes, Shoes, Shoes!
Big Reduction Sale of Shoes.
\$3.00 Shoes for 2.75; \$2.75 Shoes for 2.50
Remember all new Goods At This Rate.
ALL GOODS 25c OFF THE DOLLAR AT THE RED STAR SHOE STORE
J. S. HARRINGTON,
OPERA HOUSE BLOCK,
DUSHORE, PA.