

Republican News Item

CHAS. LOREN WING, Editor.

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"FIRST OF ALL--THE NEWS."

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Harrisburg, April 29.—There were no sensational developments during the last week in the canvass for the nominations on the Republican state ticket.

No primaries were held in which the gubernatorial question was an issue before the voters, but the declarations of the two district conventions in Luzerne county in favor of the nomination of John P. Elkin, of Indiana, were in a measure a surprise to some of Mr. Elkin's opponents.

The contest in the Third district was a most exciting one. The Elkin delegates won by a vote of 26 to 24 after repeated efforts had been made by their opponents to have the convention take a recess.

Strong resolutions in favor of Mr. Elkin were adopted in both conventions.

The counties of Adams, Sullivan, Wyoming, Clinton and Greene have also just elected delegates to the state convention, but in none of these counties was the governorship an issue at the polls.

In one district in Lackawanna county, delegates who will probably vote for Wastres for governor at least on the first ballot, were elected and the candidate for the legislature who was supported by the friends of Congressman Connell was nominated in this district after the Wastres men had made quite a determined fight against the Connell favorite.

There has been no successful movement to unite the opponents of Mr. Elkin for the governorship upon any candidate.

While several men have been mentioned in this connection, there has been no particular candidate singled out to be supported by the anti-Elkinites.

MONTGOMERY HELD OFF.

In Montgomery county it was expected that when the county committee met a few days ago to fix the date for the primary elections to name the nine delegates to the state convention, United States Attorney James B. Holland, the Republican leader of the county, would be endorsed for governor. He was to have been named as a home favorite to avoid a clash on that issue.

Widespread interest was taken during the week in the conference which a number of supporters of Mr. Elkin had at Washington with Congressman William Connell, of Lackawanna. Mr. Elkin was there, and he and his friends, after the gathering adjourned, issued a statement expressing confidence in the ultimate nomination of Mr. Elkin.

The names of General Brooke, Judge Pennypacker, United States Attorney General Knox and former Senator J. Donald Cameron are still mentioned, among others, in the discussion of the next governorship, but no organized movement has been made in favor of any of them to date.

Senator Quay has been meeting his friends in Philadelphia, Beaver and Pittsburg, but he has not up to this time publicly indicated a preference for any candidate for governor.

ELKIN IN THE WEST.

Mr. Elkin was one of the star guests at the banquet of the Americus Club of Pittsburg on Saturday last, and while in Allegheny county was called upon by a number of leading Republicans from that and neighboring counties.

The announcement that Thomas S. Bigelow, one of the most influential leaders of the Citizens' party of Pittsburg, proposes to help Mr. Elkin in a contest for delegates to the state convention in Allegheny county has given an interesting turn to the situation there. It is believed that there will be some lively politics in Western Pennsylvania before the state convention shall be held.

There are several interesting contests on for congressional nominations throughout the state, which are keeping the party workers busy. The contest between Congressman Acheson, of Washington, and Lawyer Cunningham, of Beaver, is attracting widespread attention, and in Congressman Mahon's district former Senator Hummel, of Snyder county, is making a campaign to land the seat in the lower house from the veteran Mahon.

PENROSE FIGHTS OLEO

Defends Farming and Dairy Interests Against Bogus Butter Men.

HE GIVES FACTS AND FIGURES

A Strong Argument in Favor of Protection For Those Who Have Suffered From the Operations of the Oleomargarine Trust.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, April 29.—Senator Penrose has been widely complimented upon his speech delivered in the United States senate in favor of the bill intended to protect the farmers of the United States from the oleomargarine trust.

Senator Penrose prefaced his speech by declaring that no state in the union was more interested in the proposed legislation than Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA'S INTERESTS.

"The returns of the census of June 1, 1900," he said, "show that the live stock industry of Pennsylvania has a value of \$109,590,426. Of this the dairy industry, counting simply cows kept for milk of the age of 2 years and over, represents a sum of \$29,141,561, and the value of neat cattle, outside of cows kept for milk, amounts to \$13,921,639, making a total for cows and neat cattle in Pennsylvania of \$43,063,191. The value of the production of these animals per year has not yet been computed by the census department, but by comparing the number of dairy cows as given by the census of 1890, with the present census there has been a gain of 16,519 head, an increase of 1.7 per cent. The amount of butter manufactured from these animals amounts to about 90,000,000 pounds per year, and the amount of milk produced to about 440,000,000 gallons. There are at present in Pennsylvania 856 creameries manufacturing butter. In the plant of each of these there is invested an average of \$3,000, which would represent \$2,568,000 capital.

"The income to the people of my state in a single year from butter alone amounts to between sixteen and eighteen million dollars, and the milk product, estimated at 8 cents per gallon, represents about \$35,000,000 additional. "This immense sum of money is a new product each year, adding this much to the actual wealth of the state annually, and has the advantage of being distributed throughout all of the farm homes of the commonwealth, going to the support of more than 1,000,000 people who are engaged in agriculture, enabling them to maintain themselves in comparative comfort.

"Oleomargarine can be manufactured at from 7 to 9 cents per pound, depending upon the quality and fluctuations in the price of the materials that compose it. With the present government tax of 2 cents added, the total cost of the manufacture is from 10 to 11 cents per pound.

"This makes it possible for the oleomargarine manufacturer to place his product upon the market at a price below the cost price of butter. The inevitable consequence will be to drive out the butter-making industry."

FAVORED THE TAX.

Senator Penrose said the tax of 10 cents per pound would raise the cost price of oleomargarine to from 17 to 19 cents a pound, which is about the cost of manufacturing a good article of butter. The effect would be to protect the farmer. Manufacturers have been protected for many years and the farmer should now be protected.

There is another reason why oleomargarine should be taxed. Instead of oleo being marked and sold as such it is in many cases colored in imitation of butter and sold as butter. This is a fraud upon the public as well as a menace to a very important branch of the agricultural industry.

"The imposition of a 10 cent tax, to be collected before the article is permitted to be exposed for sale," said Senator Penrose, "will remove in a great degree the temptation to commit this fraud, and will be to that extent in the interest of public morals."

"We are not ready to substitute the oleomargarine factory for the butter industry in the state of Pennsylvania.

"We are not willing that the profits of our domestic animals shall be taken away from their legitimate sources and given to a select syndicate of capitalists, in order that they may become inordinately rich."

"The commissioner of internal revenue reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, that there were, in round numbers, 91,000,000 pounds of oleo manufactured in the United States, of which eleven and one-half million pounds were sold in Pennsylvania. In the manufacture of this immense amount only 1.72 per cent. of the material used was butter.

"Against this imposition the honest farmer and dairyman should be protected. "It may be well to remember that the farmers of the country are among our very best citizens, and there is no class that is more deserving of the considerate care of our lawmaking bodies.

"The farmers have always favored government protection where protection is needed, and now that they need protection themselves it is only just that it should be given them. In the state of Pennsylvania the local granges number about 500, with a membership of fully 55,000, principally heads of families. The farmers of Pennsylvania are among the most intelligent and conservative of all the many elements of our population, and in a general way they may be said to constitute the best bulwark of our institutions."

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