

FREELAND TRIBUNE.

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—BY—
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FREELAND, PA., JANUARY 29, 1891.

Ballot Reform.

The most important public question before the voters of Pennsylvania at present is how to attain that much-needed reform—the purity and secrecy of the ballot. Being, as it is, the foundation of all proposed reforms, it is necessary that the subject should receive nothing but the most careful consideration at the hands of our legislators. The voters of the State, as they have voiced their opinions through the public press, are almost unanimously in favor of ballot reform to its fullest extent. That the Democratic Executive at Harrisburg is abreast of the times on this issue is clearly shown in the following portion of his inaugural address, which treats wholly upon ballot reform, which can only be had in its entirety through a Constitutional Convention:

The Constitution requires that all elections shall be held in public view, and such elections are not secured by existing laws. Nor is our ballot secret. Fierce political conflicts between parties have given birth here as elsewhere to many phases of corruption, to the lavish use of money by rich candidates, to fraudulent registration, intimidation by corporations and by large employers of labor, to false counting, and to marked, altered and suppressed ballots. These political contests have revealed the existence of a purchasable element in our midst and all forms of ballot debauchery.

The sovereignty of the people depends for its efficiency upon the co-operative intelligence and the incorruptible integrity of the sovereign. To make sure of the former we have established our public schools; to make sure of the latter we have adopted the ballot-box, and have thrown around it the protection of peculiar laws. But the abolition of the viva voce vote and the adoption of the ballot have proved to be not only a step toward pure elections. Now, at the ballot box

Additional warranty and necessity for this are to be found in the demand for a system of compulsory personal registration. Such a system cannot be secured without a constitutional convention. The Constitution of the provision that "No elector shall be deprived of the privilege of voting by reason of his name not being registered." Like the numbered ballot clause, this provision was inserted to avoid an abuse which no longer exists; while this provision remains it is an obstruction to a reform now urgently needed and popularly demanded. An act of Assembly may establish in Pennsylvania the official ballot, the booth secluded from the voter, and the open count, all of which are important reforms; but we cannot establish compulsory registration or give to the people the one thing which they most want and are determined to have—a secret ballot—save a Constitutional Convention.

In his inaugural address Governor Pattison made use of an original phrase which promises to become the battle cry of every man who sincerely desires ballot reform. Every word of that phrase contains the true Democratic ring, and none will dare dispute the fact that "when money shall be king at American polls money will be king at American Capitals"

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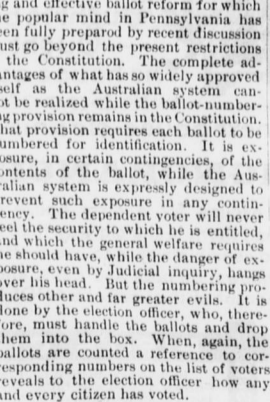
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Dear Sir:—Last Summer I rode a Curb upon my horse and your celebrated Kendall's Spavin Cure did me the best. I had several empty bottles, having used it with perfect success, curing every thing I tried it on. My neighbor had a horse with a very bad spavin in that made him lame. He asked me how to cure it. I recommended Kendall's Spavin Cure. He cured the spavin in but three weeks.

Yours respectfully,
WILCOFF WITTEL.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 4, '90.
Dear Sir:—I have been selling more of Kendall's Spavin Cure than any other medicine in the city for some time before. One man said to me, it was the best I ever used. I have cured many of the most stubborn cases of spavin in the city.

Respectfully,
EDWARD L. HOFFMAN.

CHICAGO, N. Y., May 15, '90.
Dear Sir:—I have used several bottles of your Kendall's Spavin Cure with perfect success. I have cured many of the most stubborn cases of spavin in the city. I have cured many of the most stubborn cases of spavin in the city.

From lameness and shows no mark on the joint.

Respectfully,
LEONARD FORD.

MORROW, La., May 3, '90.
Dear Sir:—I think it my duty to render you my thanks for your famous Kendall's Spavin Cure. I have used it for several weeks and it has cured my horse of his spavin. I have cured many of the most stubborn cases of spavin in the city. I have cured many of the most stubborn cases of spavin in the city.

From lameness and shows no mark on the joint.

Respectfully,
MORROW DOWDES.

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The "Press" Coal Miner.

The Philadelphia Press is publishing a series of articles from the pen of one of its correspondents who has been in this region for the past five weeks. Many of the people here believe that anything written from the coal fields describing the miners and the treatment received by them at the hands of the coal operators were written to order, and by parties living in this vicinity, so as to place those men before the public as suffering from innumerable wrongs. In order that the exact status of the miners be made known, and for purposes which will hereafter appear (the exact nature of which would not be prudent to mention just yet), the Tribune will push and fair play which characterizes its management, determined to make a thorough investigation of the matter.

Mr. Brown came into this region about five weeks ago an entire stranger to its residents, and after making inquiry found that there were many men who feared to speak about their work to a stranger. To the Editor of the *Tribune* Mr. Brown disclosed his plan, which appeared to be to get information as to the cost of mining coal, the cost of store goods, mine supplies, etc. That he would enter the mines as a laborer was never even suspected by those to whom he spoke about the state of affairs existing here at present; yet, with that thirst for knowledge, which can only be gained by experience, he sought and procured employment as a common laborer. The result of his investigation has been laid before the public through the columns of the *Press* during the past week. We trust that they may be productive of good results, and that the change which may take place will be of a lasting benefit to all who work in and around the mines.

A Prediction.

Mr. Thomas G. Shearman has an article in the January "Forum" on "The Coming Billionaire," from which the following is an extract:

In the reaction which has already begun, but which will be all the more sweeping the longer it is delayed, all taxes imposed upon the poor for the direct benefit of the rich will be swept away. The duty on raw wool is known to be doomed and the rich wool growers correctly predict that the duties on woolen goods will vanish almost as speedily as those on wool. How long will pig iron taxes throttle New England? How long will the duties on iron and steel stand as a protective shield? The protective features of the tariff will soon be destroyed. But before that time shall arrive direct taxation will have been resorted to as a partial source of government revenue, and the masses, finding themselves exempt from it, will insist upon its extension and eventually upon its substitution for all other taxes. Now will there be any powerful concentrated interest to resist this demand after the protective system has been destroyed. Nobody will purchase votes in favor of a tariff for revenue only.

Direct taxation, on a large scale, is near at hand. The men who bought and paid for the present Congress can now choose what its form will be. They can have a general income tax, or they can have something less open to fraud, less inquisitorial in its nature, less oppressive upon honest men and offering no premium to perjury. But they know nothing about the science of taxation, and they do not care to learn; so that the whole matter will be left over to the new Congress, and a general income tax, objectionable as it is, seems most likely to be adopted. It has already been proposed by Senator Plumb and Mr. Mills. It is one of the demands of the farmers' alliance everywhere. It will be very popular in the West, because it will be collected chiefly in the East; and it will be very popular among farmers in all sections, because incomes under \$1,000 will be exempted, and so scarcely any farmers will pay it. The protected manufacturers and mine owners may have a harvest for four years, but it will not be so rich as they have imagined, because consumption will fall off. After that time the men of wealth who bought the soldier vote by the promise of enormous pensions, which they expected to saddle upon the poor, will have the great pleasure of paying most of the pension bill themselves, through an income tax.

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