

The Berrien County Record.

D. A. WAGNER, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4, 1870.

For Representative in Congress—3d District, CAPT. J. C. BURROWS, Of Kalamazoo County.

Republican State Convention.

A Republican State Convention, to nominate candidates for State officers, and for the transaction of other business, will be held in the city of Detroit, at YOUNG MEN'S HALL, (BIDDLE HOUSE BLOCK), on THURSDAY, the FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1870, at 11 o'clock A. M. The several counties will be entitled to two delegates for each representative in the lower branch of the State Legislature; and every organized county having no representation will be entitled to one delegate. By the resolution of 1868, no delegate will be entitled to a seat who does not reside in the county he represents.

J. J. BAGLEY, Chairman.
J. K. BOWEN, Sec'y.
H. L. HALL, Jr., Treasurer.
G. H. KILPATRICK, Jr., Secretary.
N. H. BRYLEY, JAMES O'DONNELL, GEO. H. DOWNS, H. A. HARRIS, Republican State Committee.
W. S. WOOD, Secretary.
June 28, 1870.

Republican Congressional Convention.

The several counties composing the Second Congressional District are requested to send delegates to a Convention to be held at Union Hall, in the village of White Pigeon, on Wednesday, the 7th of September, 1870, at 11 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Congress, to be supported by the electors of said District at the approaching general election.

The several counties are entitled to send two delegates for each Representative and Senator in the State Legislature.

Republican County Convention.

The Republicans of Berrien County will meet in delegate Convention, at Berrien Springs, on TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1870, at 1 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Convention to meet in Detroit on the first of September, and eight delegates to the Congressional Convention to meet in White Pigeon on the 7th of September next.

The ratio of representation adopted by the County Convention of 1868, the different townships and wards are entitled to delegates as follows:
Bainbridge, 6 Niles City—1st Ward 6
" 11 do 2d do 6
" 12 do 3d do 6
Berrien, 6 do 4th do 6
Buchanan, 12 Oroonoko, 6
Chickadee, 6 Pipestone, 6
Glen, 6 do 6
Hagar, 6 St. Joseph, 10
Lake, 6 do 6
Lincoln, 6 do 6
New Buffalo, 6 Waterfall, 6
Niles, 6 Wewahatche, 6
H. PALMER, Sec'y.
J. P. ALEXANDER, C. E. BERRY, D. A. WAGNER, Committee.

Republican Township Caucuses.

The Republicans of the Township of Buchanan will meet in Convention, at the office of Wm. S. Merrill, Esq., on Saturday, August 20th, at 2 o'clock P. M., to choose 12 Delegates to attend the County Republican Convention, to be held at Berrien Springs, on the 23d of August next, for the purpose of electing delegates to the State and Congressional Conventions.

THE LEGISLATURE AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

There seems to be a great diversity of opinion among the members of the Legislature relative to the railroad aid question. Two proposed amendments to the Constitution have been reported and considerably discussed, but of course it will take some little time to arrive at definite conclusions.

One of the amendments proposes to render valid all aid voted prior to the 27th day of May, 1870, the time the Supreme Court decision was rendered. This amendment will, if adopted, validate all bonds in the hands of third parties, all bonds held by railroad companies, and all bonds yet in the hands of the State Treasury. In fact it proposes to render valid all aid voted prior to the decision of the Supreme Court.

This, in our opinion, is going a little too far, and will meet with a sad defeat at the hands of the people, if not at the hands of the Legislature. Such an amendment, we trust, will be killed before it ever comes before the people—be killed where it out to be, in the Legislature.

We have rather inclined to the opinion that it would be right and proper to submit an amendment validating all aid voted where the railroad company had performed fully their part of the contract, and the bonds were held by innocent third parties. On mature deliberation, and viewing the matter over and over again, we come to the conclusion that, if the principle is wrong, which we believe it is, for a majority to vote away the property of a minority to donate it to a private corporation, then it would be equally unjust for me to lend my vote or aid, to compel that minority to pay a debt which the majority in the Township had no just right to impose. We will therefore be under the necessity of opposing any amendment that looks to the taking of the property of A to give to B. We think this view will be entertained by four-fifths of the voters of Berrien County.

The other amendment before the Legislature simply looks to the authorizing of future aid to railroads by taxation. This proposition, as well as the former, should be speedily voted down in the Legislature. Let this be done and the State will be saved untold evils.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A gratifying intelligence is being circulated, that the National debt has been reduced during the year, Seventeen Millions, one hundred and thirty-three thousand, one hundred and thirty-three dollars, and one cent. This is a very gratifying result, and one which will be well received by all patriotic Americans.

FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

The news from the theater of war indicate that a general engagement cannot long be delayed. The hostile forces are massing immense bodies of soldiers preparatory to the coming struggle. How these losses reach the readers of the RECORD, it is altogether probable that a bloody battle will have been fought, thousands will have been slain to gratify the greed of an ambitious Emperor.

The present aspect of affairs seem to indicate that England will yet be drawn into the contest. And if such proves to be the case, it cannot reasonably be expected that other powers will look idly on.

It seems that Napoleon is both, after all, a politician and a statesman. He has been heavy blows. He acts like a man conscious of the wrong, and self-condemned, realizing that he is regarded in the light of an aggressor by the civilized world.

The contest will prove most disastrous to the Pope and his temporal possessions. France, it is reported, has already ordered the evacuation of Rome by French troops. Italy, of course, will immediately take possession, and occupy Rome, the ancient capital of Italy. To this movement France can and will not object in the civilized protestant world. Italy should long since have possession of Rome as her capital, and would have done so but for French bayonets. The dream of Garibaldi, the unity of Italy, is on the eve of being realized. Since the above was in type, the despatches state that a slight engagement had taken place at Sanrubbio, resulting in a French victory. The engagement lasted three hours. The news, however, is from French source and must be taken with great allowance.

CONGRESSMAN.

We commend to our readers the article in this issue from the Coldwater Republican. It is sensible, and states facts which no Republican in the District dare deny. It appears to us the height of folly for Gen. Stoughton's friends to insist on his re-nomination at all hazards. They seem to think or care nothing for the harmony of the party, if only they can secure Stoughton's nomination. Now, then, is this right? Is it honorable to attempt to force an unpopular man on the Republicans of the District, then, if he is nominated by hook or crook, say, "you must support his election or be a traitor to the party?" As for the RECORD we shall be forced into no such position. If Gen. Stoughton is determined to lay back on his dignity, and claim that all the charges against him are not worthy of being brought against him, he will be the last man to claim to be his friends. But we do not intend to let him do so. It will at least prove to the people that he dreads the result. Read the article from the Coldwater Republican.

A CARD FROM CAPT. BURROWS.

Owing to a misapprehension on the part of some, that Capt. Burrows had declined the further use of his name in connection with Representative to Congress, we republish from the Kalamazoo Telegraph the card of Mr. Burrows, which, it will be seen, is no withdrawal, but simply a high and honorable statement relative to a certain charge made against Gen. Stoughton. The following is the card referred to:

Having read the article in the view of the fact that my name is mentioned in connection with Representative to Congress, from this District, and that a charge is made, by one R. C. Nash, against our present Representative, that he received \$453 as compensation for securing a place in the Government printing office, I desire to state, under oath, to justice to Gen. Stoughton, that I am satisfied not only that the man Nash is utterly unworthy of being called a Republican, but that the charge is entirely untrue and unwarranted from the evidence he produces. I make this statement in fairness to Gen. Stoughton, being unwilling that my personal advancement should be promoted by the influence of any such false charge.

Dated Kalamazoo, July 30, 1870.

J. C. BURROWS.

MAKING A SLATE.

"King George," alias "Squatter Sovereignty," "Tariff Reform," is said to be a reporter to be laboring hard to get up a "slate," and from an office seekers' ring. Guess he thinks he runs the Republican party. It is reported he aspires to a State office. Let faithful Republicans look out for this "wirepuller." Any thing for office. We shall keep our friends posted of these rings. One or two others will soon have to be named. The RECORD, may be, will get "smashed," if he don't keep quiet. O, won't he be lovely! Hot times are in store for wire pullers.

Message of the Governor on Social Statistics.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LANSING, July 28, 1870.
TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your message of the 27th inst., and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the Department of the Census Bureau at Washington to the great difficulty in obtaining from this State what is termed "Social Statistics," embracing the valuation of real and personal estate; State, county, city, and township taxation; Pauperism; Statistics of crime, and other material interests.

There can be little doubt of the importance of obtaining this information, not only for the use of the Superintendent of the Census, but for our own purposes. Much of the information would often be of value in shaping legislation.

Those statistics can only be obtained through the officers of the several counties. I respectfully suggest the propriety of requiring by law that county officers be made for the purpose of procuring and furnishing to the Secretary of State, on or before the 30th day of November next, and annually or biennially thereafter, such statistics on these and other subjects of general interest as may be deemed essential, and that provision be made for the proper compensation for the duties discharged.

The returns of lands delinquent for unpaid taxes in the counties of Isabella, Midland and Saginaw, were made at so late a date as to render such returns illegal, and the lands cannot be offered for sale for such late returns. The general interests of the State require that the lands be offered at the regular time, to-wit: on Monday of the first week of September next.

From the Coldwater Republican.

Congressional Nomination.

The newspapers throughout this District have discussed and expressed their opinions for or against various aspirants for the Republican nomination for Representative to Congress from this District. Every day we hear the question repeatedly asked, who is to be our next Congressman? This anxiety of the press and people implies an unsatisfactory condition of affairs, otherwise the usual practice of renominating the incumbent to his constituency would be followed without question. It is claimed by the friends of Gen. Stoughton that this agitation originates entirely from disappointed office seekers, and that no reason exists why he should not receive the nomination. The truth of this assertion will appear from ascertaining who his supporters and assailants are. Now, who are his active, working supporters? The answer is clear, as every one in this county well knows that they are his appointees and their friends, as might reasonably be expected, who would be guilty of base ingratitude if they did not support him. On the other hand, who are actively opposed?

1st—A majority of the press of this District.

2d—A majority of the soldiers who served under him.

3d—A majority of those who actively supported him two years ago.

4th—A large and influential class of men who were always opposed to his nomination on the ground that he was not the requisite ability, and various other objections.

Now, are all these men disappointed office seekers, seeking only for revenge? The idea is preposterous. The facts show something deeper and more substantial than that. It is wise, expedient, or safe to renominating a man who, after a trial of one term, has developed so formidable an opposition? Would it be for the interests of the Republican party to nominate any one in whom there is such a loss of confidence among those who know him best, even if it could be done successfully? Would not such a course tend directly to a division of the party?

Would it not be better to nominate a candidate whose honesty and ability is undoubted, and who has at least the confidence of his supporters? There are plenty of such men in every county in the District. The only difficulty in selecting one from so many that are worthy. We regret that we are compelled to spread before our readers such facts as exist concerning the gallant soldier, whom no one supported more cheerfully and heartily than we did two years ago, even in opposition to the wishes of some of those who now claim to be his friends. But we do not intend to let him do so. It will at least prove to the people that he dreads the result. Read the article from the Coldwater Republican.

OUR LANSING LETTER.

Organization of the Legislature—Governor's Message, Railroad Amendments, The Water of the Mineral Spring at Buchanan—Crops, etc.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LANSING, Mich., July 30, 1870.

EDITOR BERRIEN CO. RECORD.—As your numerous readers are well aware the Legislature of this State, under the proclamation of His Excellency, the Governor of this State, convened at its 12th Session, on July 27, at Lansing, Michigan, and on the 28th inst. was organized by the election of Mr. J. C. Burrows as Speaker. In this connection, the entire members of aged persons, women, and of orphan children, are known to be invested in these securities. It is scarcely necessary to say, that without provision for their payment, in many cases great inconvenience and suffering must ensue, and this must be the case to a greater or less extent, even by the delay of payment of one or more of the installment of interest.

In some cases the municipalities directly interested, have, through their municipal boards, expressed the desire and determination to acknowledge and provide for the payment of these liabilities; but it must be remembered, that however earnestly such authorities may desire to avoid the reputation of their honest failure, to keep the holders of their respective corporations, there is now no authority of law by which such provision can be made. No law can be lawfully made or collected to provide the means for paying either principal or interest; any such tax placed upon a tax roll would not only be void and uncollectible, but might vitiate the entire tax of such corporation.

It has been supposed by many that these bonds are a heavy burden upon the State, and that the law of 1869, which the act was passed under circumstances of much popular excitement on the subject of the real or supposed benefits to be derived from the extension of railroad facilities.

It is certainly true that a portion of the municipal railroad bonds now outstanding were issued under the authority of legislative acts of 1869, but these comprised only a small portion of the total amount of bonds now in the hands of parties who have purchased and paid for them in good faith.

It is undoubtedly true, that a small portion of the people of the State have felt a deep interest in and a strong desire for the construction of railroads, and have been both willing and desirous to grant municipal aid for that purpose.

Whether it is or is not wise to construct railroads, under any circumstances, to a great extent can be done by individual or private enterprise, need not be discussed in this connection, but however this may be, the bonds now outstanding are not the result of any undue impulse, or the excitement of a day; or of any one Legislature.

The following summary will give, as near as may be ascertained, the amount of the securities now outstanding, under the various enabling acts:

Enabling Acts of 1869, approved by the present Executive.

Total, \$1,000,000.
It will be observed that the total amount was issued under the laws of 1869 and 1870, nearly one-fourth under the enabling acts of 1865 and 1867, and a little more than one-fourth under the laws of 1869.

Our own State has not been singular in passing enabling acts of this character; neither have the States have similar laws upon their statute books, in most, or all of these the constitutionality of railroad legislation has been the subject of judicial adjudication; in all of these States such legislation has been sustained, save in Iowa and Wisconsin, and originally in these also.

The States were but following the example of Congress, which body, as is well known, has made grants of lands belonging to the people, as well as large subsidies in bonds to railroads. In 1841, Congress gave to the State of Michigan, and to each of eight other States named in the act, and 15 each five hundred thousand acres of public lands, "for the purpose of internal improvement, and lands to be disposed of, and the net proceeds of the sales applied to the building of roads, railways, bridges, canals," etc.

I do not call attention to our own reiterated legislation, to the extensive legislation of other States and of Congress, and to the sanction given to it by the courts of other States, either for the purpose of expressing an approval of such legislation, or of dissenting from the decisions rendered by the highest court of our own State; but simply for the purpose of showing that holders of bonds issued under the authority of five successive Legislatures, and approved by three successive Executives of Michigan, had good reason to believe that they were receiving securities of value, such as their value indicated, and may justly claim that the securities should be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

The Legislature that authorized, and the people who voted to issue the bonds, supposed they were acting under constitutional and lawful authority.

Although there is now no way of enforcing the collection, and no legal obligation for the payment of these securities, the moral obligations of a State, and of a people, are as binding as those of an individual, and should be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

As the present emergency could only be provided for by an amendment of the fundamental law of the State, and as constitutional amendments must first receive the sanction of the Legislature, and can only be submitted to the people at a general biennial November election, and as the refusal to neglect to take all proper and constitutional means to enable the municipalities directly interested to recognize and provide for their obligations, would be little less than an approval of repudiation, I could not consent, by any action of mine, to withhold from making provision for their payment.

I respectfully and earnestly recommend, that an amendment of the constitution be submitted to the people at the general election to be held on November 2nd next, to the effect that municipal corporations be authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000, and that such bonds be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

Second. Such as have been regularly voted, and deposited with the Treasurer for the benefit of proposed roads, upon which no work has yet been done.

In some cases, bonds embraced in the first of the two classes named were nearly earned by railroad companies, and had been negotiated, and part of the purchase price advanced—before the decision of the court had been rendered. It is worthy of your consideration, whether good faith does not require provision to be made for this class also.

Whether it is desirable, or the wish of the people that the municipalities should be authorized, upon any conditions, to aid in the construction of railroads by donations, loans, or subscriptions for stock, may well be questioned.

While it is not to be denied that railroads, wherever they can be properly constructed and properly maintained, are of great convenience and service to the people, and add largely to the value of property, and while it must be admitted that by means of municipal aid, they have been constructed, and that, without aid, they could not be had, I do not conceive it equally clear that the principle is entirely correct, and I have serious doubts as to the propriety of its further application. It is for you in your wisdom to decide whether this question shall be placed before the people for their decision at the approaching November election.

The subjects presented for your consideration, involve principles and interests of the greatest moment to the people of this State, and to the prosperity of our noble State. They are not wholly outside of the past experience of the people of our own and other States, the teachings of the past should be carefully scrutinized, and whatever tends to advance the real prosperity and credit of the State, should be adopted, while that which experience has shown to be unsafe and dangerous should be rejected.

I submit these important matters for your consideration, with full confidence that your action will be such as will receive the approval of the people.

HENRY P. BALDWIN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, LANSING, July 27, 1870.

On Saturday last, Katy Regan, about 20 years of age, a servant in the house of Mr. H. H. Hatch, supposing the fire was entirely out, poured Kerosene upon the burning wood she had placed in the stove, and kindled a fire of flame and smoke, which she put in her hands, and enveloping her person in her embrace, burning her clothes entirely from her person. She lingered until about midnight when death mercifully released her from her terrible suffering. When will people learn to handle Kerosene with care?—Day City.

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As the present emergency could only be provided for by an amendment of the fundamental law of the State, and as constitutional amendments must first receive the sanction of the Legislature, and can only be submitted to the people at a general biennial November election, and as the refusal to neglect to take all proper and constitutional means to enable the municipalities directly interested to recognize and provide for their obligations, would be little less than an approval of repudiation, I could not consent, by any action of mine, to withhold from making provision for their payment.

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The subjects presented for your consideration, involve principles and interests of the greatest moment to the people of this State, and to the prosperity of our noble State. They are not wholly outside of the past experience of the people of our own and other States, the teachings of the past should be carefully scrutinized, and whatever tends to advance the real prosperity and credit of the State, should be adopted, while that which experience has shown to be unsafe and dangerous should be rejected.

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I do not call attention to our own reiterated legislation, to the extensive legislation of other States and of Congress, and to the sanction given to it by the courts of other States, either for the purpose of expressing an approval of such legislation, or of dissenting from the decisions rendered by the highest court of our own State; but simply for the purpose of showing that holders of bonds issued under the authority of five successive Legislatures, and approved by three successive Executives of Michigan, had good reason to believe that they were receiving securities of value, such as their value indicated, and may justly claim that the securities should be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

The Legislature that authorized, and the people who voted to issue the bonds, supposed they were acting under constitutional and lawful authority.

Although there is now no way of enforcing the collection, and no legal obligation for the payment of these securities, the moral obligations of a State, and of a people, are as binding as those of an individual, and should be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

As the present emergency could only be provided for by an amendment of the fundamental law of the State, and as constitutional amendments must first receive the sanction of the Legislature, and can only be submitted to the people at a general biennial November election, and as the refusal to neglect to take all proper and constitutional means to enable the municipalities directly interested to recognize and provide for their obligations, would be little less than an approval of repudiation, I could not consent, by any action of mine, to withhold from making provision for their payment.

I respectfully and earnestly recommend, that an amendment of the constitution be submitted to the people at the general election to be held on November 2nd next, to the effect that municipal corporations be authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000, and that such bonds be held as such, and to procure their money without consideration, by placing in their hands empty, worthless promises to pay.

Second. Such as have been regularly voted, and deposited with the Treasurer for the benefit of proposed roads, upon which no work has yet been done.

