



HON. R. W. ARCHBALD.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Sketches of Two of the Prominent Candidates for Re-Election.

CAREER OF R. W. ARCHBALD

Success of One of Lackawanna County's Most Able Attorneys Upon the Bench.

John H. Thomas, the Popular Clerk of the Courts of Lackawanna.

Probably no candidate before the people of Lackawanna county this fall can look back upon a more excellent official record than the subject of this sketch.

Hon. R. W. Archbald, president judge of the Lackawanna county courts, and unanimous choice of the Republican party for re-election.

Robert Wordworth Archbald was born in Carbondale on Sept. 10, 1848, and is of combined Scotch and New England ancestry.

His father, James Archbald, was born in Argyshire, Scotland, and his mother was a daughter of Major Frothingham, of the Continental army.

Judge Archbald, removed to Carbondale in 1829, shortly after which he was made superintendent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal company's works there.

In which position he remained for thirty years. When Carbondale became a city in 1851 James Archbald became its first mayor.

When the subject of this sketch was in his ninth year his father removed with him to Scranton, so that he grew up in the midst of the remarkable development of this city and vicinity.

Judge Archbald was favored with the highest educational advantages. His first leanings were toward the calling of a city engineer, so he spent two seasons with an engineering corps.

His ideas having undergone a change in the meantime, he prepared for college at Flushing Institute and entered the freshman class at Yale in 1867, graduating four years later with high honors.

He immediately began the study of law in the office of Hand & Post and in 1873 was admitted to the bar.

He continued the practice of law in the courts of Luzerne and Lackawanna until 1884, when he was nominated by the Republicans of Lackawanna county as additional law judge.

He was triumphantly elected by a plurality of about 2,000. At the age of 25 Judge Archbald, on Jan. 5, 1885, entered upon the responsibilities of his official position, and he became president judge in August, 1888, upon the appointment of Judge Hand to the supreme bench of Pennsylvania.

By his careful and studious consideration of questions brought before him and his strict attention to the fatiguing duties of the position Judge Archbald quickly gained the confidence and re-

which may at any time befall those whose lot it is to labor, deep down in the bowels of the earth, deprived him of his father. The courage and heart of the man were in the breast of the boy, and he immediately set to work to help himself, his widowed mother, and fatherless sisters.

His first occupation was that of slate-picker. He secured work in the old Frogtown breaker, in Fell township, two and one-half miles from the home. His wages were small, only 35 cents a day, yet he was not discouraged.

For three years he continued in this humble occupation and at the expiration of that time he entered the mines as a driver boy. Every cent of his small earnings he gave to his mother. He worked in the mines as driver boy until he was 17, when he became a laborer. By this time the boy had become a man.

The responsibilities which had been placed on his young mind had most to do with the forming of his character. His ambition grew apace with his years, and he determined to better his condition by learning some useful trade. Accordingly he apprenticed himself to a stone mason, learned the trade, and learned it well.

He followed this occupation until 1859, when he was appointed by Mayor Banta to the police force in the Carbondale police force. His appointment was unanimously confirmed by the city council, notwithstanding the fact that he held his position on the police force for nine successive years.

While on the police force, and during his nine years not a single complaint was ever lodged against him, so faithfully did he perform the exacting duties of his office. His great popularity in Carbondale, and, indeed, in all of the upper portion of the county, where he was best known, made him the natural choice of the clerk of the courts in 1859.

He was kept out of the office for about a year by an expensive contest which at last resulted, however, in securing for him the decision which had the unanimous approval of the three judges.

Three years thereafter he was again nominated by the Republican party for the same office, and was elected by a handsome majority over his opponent, John J. O'Boyle, who was one of the strongest men in the Democratic ticket.

He was re-elected to the office of the clerk of the courts Mr. Thomas has shown signal ability in the management of his affairs, and has fully qualified himself for the duties imposed by the voters of Lackawanna.

would be far better than either the present system or one based on the number of votes cast. The Syracuse Post, in discussing this subject, makes a good point when it calls attention to the fact that Republicans have been doing the best system that patriots in southern states to be represented in congress by a large number of congressmen elected by a very small vote.

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