

HOW THE PUBLIC LOOK AT IT.

Various Expressions of Opinion on the Row Among the Commissioners—The Law and the Facts.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS. What is your correspondent "W. F. C." driving at in his article of Friday morning on the above subject? Does he intend to attack the board of commissioners for assigning special duties to each member? or to reflect upon Gen. West for declining to serve as president under the new assignment? In either case I think he is wrong.

1. The apportionment of duties among the members of the board is no new thing. It has been practiced for years, and without objection. Nor is a similar apportionment unusual in boards having numerous functions. The board is a unit, but it has its committees; and so every church vestry and board of bank directors, every committee of congress has its sub-committees. For the district commissioners, owing to the great number and complexity of their duties, the apportionment is a matter of necessity. But no commissioner ever supposed that he was armed with "independent powers," or that he was to be charged with the duty of fully informing himself on special branches of administration and of attending to the routine work in them. It is true, in a certain sense, as stated by W. F. C., that each commissioner is to be held responsible in every measure adopted; but when Maj. Lydecker bore a hole for the reservoir tunnel no one expects the other two commissioners to insist upon holding the user. Matters of routine must be left to individual members.

2. What duties should be assigned to each member of the board should have been governed by his adaptation and position on the board. All those belonging peculiarly to street improvements, construction of buildings, the water works, &c., are naturally the engineer's commission. How should the others be divided? The president of the board is the member presented to the public by the board itself as its chief organ for the transaction of ordinary business. To him go all complaints, all communications, all requests for attention—all from the President, either house of congress, or from cabinet officers. To him naturally fall all the petty routine duties connected with the preservation of order. It appears indispensable that he should be placed in control of the police, health, and fire department; this is demanded by a due regard to the facility of administration. To the third member fall the numerous duties connected with the public school system, the offices of auditor and collector of revenue, the assessment of property, &c. The duties attaching to the post of president keep him generally in his office; those of the engineer and third member take them very frequently out of the office. It would be very inconvenient to make either the engineer or the third member president of the board.

3. Ought Gen. West to have declined acting longer as president, to think he ought. The duties assigned to him were not more onerous than those of any other member. He could not visit schools, asylums, and hospitals and be at the office to receive complaints, arrange business for the meetings of the board and see to the proper execution of the orders of the board. The two classes of duties are incompatible. The best rider can't stride two horses going in opposite directions.

4. This is so plain, that the action of Gen. West's colleagues requires a better explanation than "W. F. C." should have given. He is a man who has been performing to the entire satisfaction of the public, and which are not conveniently separable from his office as president. He is assigned to duties which cannot be conveniently performed by the members of the board. He is deprived of the supervision of the police at a time when his further services in the purification of that department seem to the public quite necessary. The public was perplexed at Maj. Lydecker's action in retaining Maj. Morgan in control of the police when the major's inability had been more than demonstrated. It is more perplexed now to know why, in the light of all the disclosures of rottenness in the police force, its immediate control is taken out of the hands of the man who has been the best of gentlemen from whom we expect much, whom we all like, but whose previous life contains no experience which guarantees his successful management of a body of policemen. Why, in his case, should Maj. Lydecker's resignation be expected of the public? The major has reasons, doubtless, which are satisfactory to him; but if he does not give them, he must not complain if people attribute his action in a public matter to personal feeling.

It is not known the motives of the actors, have kindly feeling towards them, and write only. PRO BONO PUBLICO. HAVE WE BEEN DELIVERED OVER TO THE DEMOCRATS? To the Editor.

remains unaltered in order that these gentlemen may have a chance to magnify themselves. This administration of public affairs is practically without responsibility. It is best that a little light should be turned on their operations. The evident determination to perpetuate their monopoly of authority is in itself suspicious. Irresponsible authority is always dangerous alike to the parties who exercise it and to the public interest. The Post of this morning says that it was agreed to offer Gen. West "the entire charge of the financial department." If that means that there shall be conferred upon him the right to investigate and superintend the entire expenditure for all public to the action of the other members in appropriating to themselves the whole executive powers of the board.

Mr. Edmonds came into the board not only as a major member but a democrat appointed under a republican administration, an act of magnanimity which no one will be foolish enough to expect a democratic administration to repeat should they ever gain the ascendancy. These considerations should have suggested a feeling of modest diffidence, the very opposite to the spirit he has manifested. It was on his own motion that he was assigned the duties which, by the practical application of Mr. Dent, had been awarded to Mr. Morgan. If he is correctly reported by the interviewers to be desirous to inspire confidence in his character "that he is willing to convey a false impression in denying that it was on his motion that the order of assignment published was made. This is a mere play upon words calculated, if not intended, to deceive. It is the distribution of duties had been such under the Dent administration, and the motion of Mr. Edmonds was to perpetuate that, and to give him the entire line of authority held by Mr. Morgan under the Dent administration. It is not possible to say that the duties were not specified in the motion. The interest and the effect of it was to give him the duties set out in the list as published. This was done on his motion and by the aid of Maj. Lydecker, and they knew and intended that effect to be made. Gen. West the mere figurehead that he had been. Not only was this the case, but his statement, as published by you, shows that this had been agreed upon and intended before his appointment. Was this an intended conspiracy to deprive the President? Was he aware that in appointing a democrat he was consenting to displace the republican member of the board? Or was he imposed upon and led inadvertently to turning over the administration of the affairs of the district to the democracy?

CLARK-WRIGHT—On Wednesday, March 28 (Friday), at 10 o'clock, at the residence of J. JEROME CLARK, of New York, to Miss Nellie Wright.

CHOKER—On Friday, March 30, after a short illness, WILLIAM L. CHOKER, aged 63 years. Sole of funeral hereafter.

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Advice to Convalescents.

On the appearance of the first symptoms—general debility, loss of appetite, pallor, chilly sensations, followed by night sweats and cough—prompt measures for relief should be taken. Consumption is a serious disease of the lungs; therefore use the great anti-scorbutic, or blood purifier and strength restorer—Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." Superior to cod liver oil as a nutritive and unsurpassed as a pectoral. For weak lungs, spitting of blood, and kindred affections, it has no equal. Sold by druggists the world over. For Dr. Pierce's pamphlet on consumption send two stamps to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

New Theatre Comique.

Harry Miner's Comedy company commence their return engagement at the Comique tonight. The company is a meritorious one and should meet with an ovation, for it is decidedly the best variety company in existence, as was attested during their engagement here just eight weeks ago. The roster contains such artists as Murphy and Shannon, Murphy and Mack, the Jeromes, Master Dumb, Jopps and Fanny Delano, Billy Carter, Jennie Dunn, Belle Clifton, Louis De Louise, the Wesley Bros., and Valjean. Matinees will be given Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

A Heavy Case of Drunk.

Mary C. Turner, a dusty sylph of about 225 pounds avoirdupois, was run in the third precinct station in Georgetown yesterday afternoon on the charge of drunk and disorderly. She was inflicting severe corporal castigation upon her husband, and when Officers Riley and Fisher went to his assistance she fought and bit and required the power of the officers to take her to the station. Her friends were very anxious to have her released last night on the ground of her being a very sickly and delicate "woman."

LOCAL MENTION.

"Aldermen's Dirty Wagon." Fresh Aldermen turned out early morning, and delivered in 15 lb. "Ward" prints, at 50c. per lb. Also extra cheese, 50c. per lb.; butter, 50c. per quart, and sweet milk, 50c. per quart.

The highest cash prices paid for dresses and gowns, cloths, watches, jewelry, &c. Call on or write to J. B. O'CONNOR, 205 N. 3rd Street, near Pennsylvania Avenue.

Married.

CLARK-WRIGHT—On Wednesday, March 28 (Friday), at 10 o'clock, at the residence of J. JEROME CLARK, of New York, to Miss Nellie Wright.

Died.

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Special Notices.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY IN THE BEST COMPANIES, AND IN CASE OF LOSS YOU ARE PROMPTLY PAID.

Our Insurance Department embraces the Ethna, Hartford, Franklin, Springfield Fire and Marine, Howard and Royal, of Baltimore, Hartford, Hartford; Royal and the London and Lancashire, of Liverpool.

HARRY C. TOWERS & CO., BANKERS, BROKERS, AND INSURANCE, 120 F STREET.

Harry C. Towers, member of the Stock Exchange, TRUNKS, BAGS, SATCHELS, TRAVELING BAGS, SATCHELS, SOCKETS, BOOKS, LETTER CASES, SHAWL STRAPS, &c., &c.

In great variety at TOPHAM'S POPULAR TRUNK AND HARNES FACTORY, 121 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

REPAIRING—Trunks, Bags, &c., promptly and thoroughly repaired.

DR. H. O. CANDEE, VITAPATHIC Physician, 1014 F Street, N.W., has the best resources of nature, especially all the best vegetable medicines. Food, water, air, light, electricity, &c., are used in his treatment. He has a special method of treating hemorrhoids, malarial, all blood diseases, &c. Consultation free. Office, 1014 F Street, N.W., opposite Masonic Temple.

HOMOPATHIC MEDICINES, SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALL Diseases, Malaria, Nerves, and other Infants' Feeds, at 1014 F Street, N.W., opposite Masonic Temple.

DENTIST—HOWLAND DENTAL ASSOCIATION, No. 211 Fourth and a-half street, three doors north of Pennsylvania Avenue, east side. Heretofore extracted under Nitrous Oxide, without pain, will be done for the first time, and 50 cents each additional tooth at the same price. Best Artificial Teeth made at 25c. per set. Gold and Amalgam Fillings from 25c. to 50c. All work warranted first class. Have administered Nitrous Oxide to over 25,000 patients. Old and artificial teeth repaired and made to look and feel like new for 50c.

FREDK SPRINGMANN, C. E. SPRINGMANN, Springmann Bros., No. 45, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 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