

National Banner.



J. B. STOLL, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1869.

THE NEW ELECTION LAW.

On the first page of to-day's paper we publish the recent act of the Legislature amending the general election law of the State. It will be seen that it postpones the election of all officers whose terms would have expired next October, and provides that all vacancies shall be filled by operation of the constitutional provision, which declares (sec. 8, art. 10): "Whenever it is provided in this constitution, or in any law which may hereafter be passed, that any officer, other than a member of the General Assembly, shall hold his office for any given term, the same shall be construed to mean, that such officer shall hold his office for such term, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified." And sec. 9, art. 8, provides that "vacancies in county, township, and town offices shall be filled in such manner as may be prescribed by law."

Accustomed as the people of this country are to seeing laws enacted for other purposes than that of taking away the rights of the citizens, we doubt whether even a majority of the Republicans will approve of a measure that fastens upon every community officials who could not receive an extension of the term of office beyond the original, limited period, by submitting their claims to the people. What right has a Legislature to prolong the term of county or township officers? Was this assumption of power resorted to for the purpose of keeping in public positions a set of officers who were fearful of defeat in the fall, as a consequence of the fraudulent "ratification" of the 15th amendment? Or is it, as alleged by the *Imperialist*, intended to prepare the public mind for imperialism and the establishment of a monarchical form of government?

RATIFIED.

On last Thursday, after the democratic members of the Indiana Legislature had tendered their resignations, the radical members of the Senate and House, neither of these bodies having a quorum, illegally and unconstitutionally proceeded to ratify the 15th amendment to the constitution of the United States. It is understood that this unlawful scheme was concocted by that unprincipled demagogue, Moxa Morton, at whose bidding the fragmentary "Legislature" declared the Ethiopian amendment "duly ratified," despite the protest of the few Democrats who remained to witness the enactment of this grand farce.

Whether Congress will declare that the action of these usurpers of legislative authority is valid, is not a subject for speculation. That will depend entirely upon circumstances. If enough other States can be induced to ratify the 15th amendment, Indiana will not be counted in the affirmative, but if needed to make the requisite three-fourths, the Indiana "ratification" will surely be recognized. That is the radical mode of doing such things—regardless of law, precedence or rules of propriety. We might well call upon column in denunciation of this villainous outrage, but prefer to "watch and see" the consequences. In the mean time we ask each and every one of our readers to contemplate how pleasant it will be to march up to the ballot-box by the side of sweet-scented Africans, and with what apparent ease representatives of the people, sworn to obey and defend the constitution of Indiana, but forgetful of their solemn obligations, cast their votes for the obliteration of the fundamental law of our State, and the striking down of the most sacred rights of the people.

Cause and Effect.

The suddenly-enfranchised Southern negroes, who have an Eastern exchange, have made the South one huge field of horrible rapine; but, with the exception of a case of lynching here and there, nothing has been done to curb these devils of their lustful will. We predicted, when these awful outrages began to be common in the South, that if the people of the other sections looked on in apathy, they would soon have the crime habitually perpetrated in their midst. North, East, and West, the negroes are beginning to indulge in this offence with a devilish impunity perfectly appalling. The latest victim is a Connecticut school girl, aged only 13 years, living near Arlington, Connecticut. The negro monster has not been captured. Should he fall into the hands of the law, toga philanthropists will seek to gain his aquittal because of his black skin.

An Excellent Move.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature prohibiting under heavy fine or imprisonment, any person to be employed as prescriptionist in a drug shop unless he has served two years' apprenticeship at the business, or has graduated at some medical college or school of pharmacy, except he prepares the medicine under the direct supervision of some one fully qualified as above. These measures are looking in the right direction. Mistakes are easily made by incompetent prescriptionists, and the results of error are so serious that the most stringent regulations are required to guarantee the public the safety required.

The Planet Saturn.

This interesting object now rules as evening star, rising near the northeast point of the horizon, thirty-three minutes after eleven o'clock in the evening. It is now in the sign of the scorpion, about twelve degrees northeast of the lunar star Antares. The broadest expanse of the sky is nearly turned towards the earth. In this portion of the orbit it is affirmed that stars have been seen in the space which intervenes between the rings.

DOINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature repealed the Registry law, with the exception of the first section. Odious, useless and expensive as that law was, one infinitely more obnoxious has been adopted to take its place, requiring each ballot to be numbered—the number to correspond with that of the person who votes. For instance if John Johnson stands No. 100 on the poll book, the inspector of elections will number the ballot he votes 100. By this means every voter is "spotted." It can be ascertained how many men vote, and in effect abolishes the ballot system of voting. It is a most iniquitous measure.

A sheriff's mileage bill, fixing the distance from each county seat to the State Prison, was passed.

The bill regulating the practice of medicine failed on its passage in the House. The State Eclectic Medical Association happened to be in session at Indianapolis when it came before that august body. We don't mean to insinuate that there was any "conniving and coining" between these grand and imposing bodies, but it looks that way.

In the Senate, the bill perfecting the organization of the Soldiers Home was passed. Indiana will continue to maintain a separate Home, being the only State in the Union which has not accepted the offer of the General Government.

The bill to provide for the construction and maintenance of fish ladders, a new invention, costing but little to cheapen an important article of food—passed.

The House concurrent resolution, to print ten thousand copies of the road law, for the use of supervisors, was concurred in.

A bill allowing the university of Notre Dame to hold \$100,000 of real property instead of \$30,000, exempt from taxation, passed the Legislature on the 29th ult.

The County Seat bill that provides that when two-thirds of the tax-payers and legal voters shall petition and procure two and one-fourth acres for a Court House site, the Commissioners may locate, passed.

ATROCIOUS DESPOTISM.

The atrocious despotism under which the white people of Tennessee are living, succinctly described by the Cincinnati *Enquirer* in the following paragraph:

It is well for our readers to be informed as to what an election amounts to in Tennessee, and how the right of suffrage is secured. The *Post* has closely examined all the men who have been directly or indirectly communication with manifold news. I am convinced that they are not cognizant of the *Post* or any arrangement with the *Post*.

This shows up Mr. Young's regard for the truth. The *Post* further says that this editor, who deprecates so strongly, through the columns of his paper, the efforts of editors to get into office, made an effort to get into Grant's Cabinet. The *Post* says, in conclusion, that all these developments, including the original of Young's letters, were laid before Mr. Greeley a few weeks ago.

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