

# THE PILOT.

BY T. C. OLNSTED.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF MANITOWOC COUNTY.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1872.

## Democratic State Convention.

The Democracy of the State of Wisconsin are notified to meet in State Convention at the Academy of Music, in Milwaukee, on Thursday, June 13, 1872, at 12 o'clock M. for the purpose of nominating electors and of electing delegates to the Democratic National Convention to be held at Baltimore on the 9th day of July next.

Each Senate and Assembly district will be entitled to two delegates in said State Convention.

OTIS PRESTON,	F O THORP,
JOHN A. RICE,	SAT CLARK,
D W BALLON,	FRED S ELLIS,
E E CHAPIN,	GABE BOUCK,
J G KNIGHT,	O F JONES,
R B RICE,	T RODOLF,
J P C COTTRILL,	S A PEASE,
B S WEIL,	GILBERT L PARK,

Democratic State Central Committee.

## RAILROAD SUBSCRIPTION.

The all-absorbing topic of all classes of our citizens for the last week, has been shall we accept the proposition of the Milwaukee, Manitowoc & Green Bay Railway Company, by subscribing \$75,000 to the capital stock of said company, and vote the bonds required of our city. Had the vote been taken ten days ago, we think it would not have carried, but the more the matter is discussed and understood, the more our citizens seem inclined to vote the bonds. There are some, however, who think that the company would build the road all the same whether the bonds are voted or not, and that the bonds voted by the county are sufficient, and that it is an evidence of bad faith on the part of Eastern men who are furnishing the money to build the road, &c. Others seem haunted with the astounding revelation that somebody is about to make a big thing out of these bonds. The amount of local jealousy that that sort of fear engenders in a city of our population is fearful to contemplate, and in its different effects on those who have a natural leaning in that direction has its ludicrous as well as tragic side.

It is true that the first contractors, Messrs. Easton & Co., deemed the aid voted by the County sufficient, but they long since passed away and left the State largely in debt, without making a colossal fortune from our bonds. In fact, they lost all the money they put in and succumbed because they could not get money to go on. Next came Mr. Hiram Barney from New York, as agent for Eastern capitalists, at the solicitations of Mr. Vilas and others, and looked the ground over and said to the citizens of the cities of Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc & Green Bay and intermediate towns, "if you can pledge additional aid from your respective localities, I think New York capitalists can be induced to take hold of your railroad enterprise and carry it through." Among the amounts named was \$50,000 for Sheboygan, \$75,000 for Manitowoc, and \$25,000 from Two Rivers. All the business men of these localities were knowing to these facts, and either promised out-and-out at the time, or by silence, which is almost as binding on men who care for a commercial standing. The time came to go to work at Sheboygan. The fractious rebelled at first, but, as the matter was discussed, better counsels prevailed, and at the election there were only eleven votes cast against the proposition in that city. The company commenced work immediately as promised, and worked through the winter laying fifteen miles of iron and completing the major part of the grading to Milwaukee. This spring they purchased 3,000 tons of iron to finish ironing the road to Milwaukee which is now in transit to Sheboygan.

We see by the Two Rivers Chronicle, of Tuesday, "That they could not be too quick in asking," and say they have but one opinion there and that is "that they want the road and are willing to pay for it."

This city is now asked to vote her \$75,000 bonds, with the promise from President Vilas to complete the road from Milwaukee to Two Rivers by the 1st day of November next. He also frankly states that he cannot induce them to furnish a dollar to commence work this side of Sheboygan until additional bonds are voted, and that at each and every time thus far, when asking for money to keep its construction progressing, the doleful sound has come up from the money vaults; "Will your people vote the bonds?" and that each time he has had to assure them of our pighted faith. It now remains to be seen whether all wisdom has really been concentrated in this city for the last sixteen or eighteen years. If we can point to glorious achievements in that time, then let it be recorded. Our harbor will suggest itself. We answer, yes, that is indeed glorious; but the outside towns helped us generously. Yet we will remember of hearing the same objections raised—Taxes, taxes, taxes. Well, we have survived that, prospering all the time as all will admit. The farmer knows full well, that he got \$2.50 more per ton for hay here last season than they paid in Sheboygan, from the fact, that larger vessels could put on a full load and get out at any time, and with any wind, but this was the foresight of but comparatively few men in our midst aided by a liberal Congress. Will they help themselves now and keep the pledges so made by Mr. Vilas? Few men have so successfully stemmed a stronger current than he has encountered in the last two years—the united opposition of the Northern Railroad Company, the Milwaukee wheat ring, and other railroad interests in this State, to say nothing of slight skirmishing in the rear from local jealousies at home, which, although not heavy, are nevertheless very annoying while working for the general welfare of all.

Suicidal as it seems, yet it is not the first time in the history of Manitowoc that this state of things has prevailed. We could have had a Western road sixteen years ago, had it not been for these same causes which of itself, in connection with the Sheboygan Road, would have brought the Northwestern through Sheboygan and our city to Green Bay, giving us 20,000 or 25,000 inhabitants in place of the six thousand we now have, had we had the benefit of railroad facilities that we should and could have had.

We now have another chance to be penny wise and pound foolish. We believe it is for the interest of every man in our city to vote the bonds—not only one class, but all—the rich, the middle man and, more especially the man who gets his

living by manual labor, owning perhaps a house and lot, as it will only add from fifty cents to two dollars to his whole tax annually, while labor would increase in price and demand. Others pretend conscientious scruples against voting a tax on the poor man, that, we opine is rather thin, and will not catch votes, as they showed no such scruples while voting bounty tax several years since on poor men's property while they were away in the army at \$13 per month.

Again, in case \$125,000 taxable capital should be attracted and invested in this city within a year and a half our taxes would actually be decreased by the time the tax was levied for the payment of interest on these bonds. In any event this city can well afford to vote the bonds asked, as she will then get the benefit of railroad connections with the outer world at much less cost than any other city in the West. And we feel that such heavy taxpayers as Benj. Jones, J. E. Platt, O. Torrisson, Lyman Emerson, G. S. Rand, P. Johnston, Thos. Windiate, Jonah Richards, The First National Bank, T. C. Shove, Jacob Lueps, J. D. Markham, Scheuttee & Bro. Cooper & Jones, Guyles & Pankrats, S. A. Wood, Richard Klingholtz, and hundreds of others who own or control large landed, moneyed, or property interests in this city, should consider it their imperative duty to vote this tax on the city. As to whether these capitalists would build the road in time, if the bonds were not voted we are in no mood to consider after sixteen or seventeen years of waiting, as delays have always proved fatal with our railroad prospects.

In another column will be found the proposition of the Railroad Co. to the city. Also the order for an election which was published in the PILOT last week, but being ordered late Wednesday night, was too late for comment.

## PRESIDENT MAKING.

Since our last issue the Democrats of the great State of New York have met in convention at Rochester, N. Y., May 15th, and elected delegates to the National Democratic Convention to be held at Baltimore, and passed resolutions recognizing the changes in the nature and necessities of our government, and, without re-opening questions of the past, are now ready to co-operate and affiliate with any and all who are earnest and honest in the desire of restoring an honest administration of national affairs. They heartily endorse the platform of political principles adopted by the Convention at Cincinnati as a proof of the public opinion, and ask all to unite on that platform for the purpose of enforcing the obligations of the Constitution, and the delegates to the Baltimore Convention were instructed to take the course best calculated to secure this object in the selection of any candidate, as the exponent of these principles, who might meet the approval of that Convention.

While we believe that the New York Delegation to the Baltimore Convention will vote *en masse* for Horace Greeley unless something strikes the current of coming events more powerful than a tidal wave, yet Mr. Greeley being a New York man the Convention showed its wisdom by not introducing premature instructions. It is not becoming in State Conventions in all their assembled wisdom to be "fractious and gushing," like [us] country newspaper editors, yet the fact must be patent to every thinking mind, that the Liberals must make a show of positive strength before they can ask three million of voters to meet them on common ground, and, in order to make their strength apparent, they must have time. We do not hesitate to say they have got it, even more than they claim, for we think we know many cautious Republicans who have as yet made no sign, but are waiting for time to develop the probabilities of Greeley's endorsement by the Baltimore Convention, and if in no other way, all disclose their uneasiness by asking, "Will Grant or some new man get the nomination at Philadelphia?" If you answer, "some new man," hope brightens their eyes, and they ask, "Who?" but if you answer "Grant," they pass on reflectively, but do not whistle worth a cent.

Our Democratic State Central Committee while meeting in Milwaukee to name the time and place for the State Convention, wisely avoided instructions as to candidates at the Convention of their own calling, yet, outside of the committee rooms, "gushed" Greeley 10 to 3 passive, none for the old Rut. Col. Gabe Bouck wore a Greeley hat and claimed the right to wear as good clothes as Horace, or any other man, and, above all, had the good sense to call the Convention at Milwaukee, for which they have our grateful acknowledgment.

## TAX VALUATIONS AT MADISON.

The Republican papers throughout the State are taking considerable cheap credit to themselves in regard to the reduction of the valuation by the State Board of Equalization at Madison, which, in fact, is nothing more or less than an attempt to whitewash the extravagant expenditures of the last Legislature, and the largely increased tax thereby necessitated. The State tax last year was \$350,000; this year it is \$500,000. The extra tax of \$150,000 to be levied this year over last is never alluded to, but the fact that the assessed valuation of the whole State is reduced \$63,536,752 is much talked of. Yet, as the assessed valuation now stands, Manitowoc County is assessed about one fiftieth part of the whole State assessment, and will have to pay that proportion of the total tax to the State. For the year 1870 the assessed valuation of this county was \$7,977,585; for this year, 1872, it is \$7,702,207, a decrease of \$275,378, while it should have been about \$1,250,000 had they not raised the valuation to \$14 per acre. Relatively we have no great cause of complaint, as Calumet and Outagamie counties are also put at that figure, while Sheboygan county is assessed at \$17 per acre. The amount of our indebtedness on account of State tax will not exceed the gross amount paid last year but little, yet it is no fault of the Equalizing Board, as we paid an old debt of \$4,000 or \$5,000 due the State from this county for years, yet we suppose as long as the Regency Ring have the power, they will increase our assessment every chance they get, because we vote the Democratic ticket. Let us hope to survive their rule as well as their taxes.

Hon. Horatio Seymour of New York, advocates the endorsement and election of Horace Greeley by the Democratic party