

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., August 15, 1924.

GRAY MEEK, Editor.
To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

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DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.
For Representative in General Assembly,
W. H. NOLL JR., of Spring Township.

IN WAR RIDDEN CHINA.

Mr. North Writes of Fighting, Marching, Capitulation and New Year's Celebration.

Chengtu, China, Feb. 5, 1924.

Dear Home Folks.

Cranston and I returned to Chengtu last Saturday without any misadventure anywhere on the way, in spite of the calamity howlers among the foreign residents of the city. We left Suining on Tuesday morning, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Pilcher, and by Miss Kiester, of the W. F. M. S. Mr. Pilcher came to the city on business. The women came for pleasure. We reached the city about five o'clock. Some of our load carriers did not travel as fast as we did, and they did not reach the city before the gates were closed. When I went down stairs on Sunday morning the servants told me that the gates had not opened that morning. They have not been open since, except at infrequent intervals of a few minutes. My bed load and Miss Kiester's load came in during one of these intervals. Cranston's did not. He had to have it hauled up over the wall.

The reason for the gates' closing is this: General Yang Sen has arrived—or at least, his men have—from Hwaichow, a town to the east. He is besieging General Shiong Keh Wu's forces. For the past thirty-six hours we have been hearing the guns off to the north. Fortunately the fighting has been on that side of the city, the farthest from us. A few of the women are nervous, but most of us take the affair as a matter of course, for there is no real danger. Every missionary in any of the larger cities has been in a similar situation during some period in the past few years.

If the Germans, French, or English were attacking the city, I might have some apprehensiveness, but as Chinese soldiers seem bent upon scaring their opponents rather than upon killing them, this fighting is little more than a ripple upon the surface of our lives. No doubt by the time you get this letter you will have read in the papers that Yang Sen has taken the city—unless perchance this secluded part of the world finds no place in the news columns. Yang has captured the other three mission stations of the Methodist church since my arrival in Szechwan. We think he will complete his triumphs by taking Chengtu. We hope he will, for he is the most progressive of all West China's military leaders—and military leaders seem to be the only ones that count here.

You will perhaps be interested in some of the incidents of my trip. I told of some of my experiences on the way down. The return was a bit more interesting. One morning Cranston and Pilcher were walking ahead. I followed about a stone's throw behind. Behind me there was a small detachment of soldiers. Behind them walked Miss Kiester and Mrs. Pilcher. Suddenly there was a volley of shots. I turned about quickly and saw the soldiers shooting toward the hill to the right. Men were running in that direction. We learned that the men had been "laofued," or pressed into service, to carry loads for the soldiers. They seized upon what they considered a good opportunity to escape and took to their heels. So far as I saw none of them were hurt. Pilcher's cook, however, who was traveling with us, said that he saw about that time a man shot down in front of his children because he refused to carry loads for the soldiers. Many of the towns through which we passed were in awful shape because of the quartering of soldiers in them. To travel through the country at this time would almost make a pacifist of the most ardent militarist.

On the fourth morning of our return trip we were riding in "hwa-gans," or litters, when I heard a bullet go whistling over my head. Where it came from I do not know, for I

heard no shot. My carriers imitated the bullet's sound, but trudged along as if nothing had happened. As they showed no concern, I judged that there was no reason for my showing any alarm.

The sight of dead men is so common over here that one soon becomes rather hardened to it. As we crossed the mountains which border the Chengtu plain we passed two of them along the roadside. Many of these fellows are beggars who have scarcely enough vitality to pull themselves along. When the soldiers press them into service they soon give up the ghost. A considerable number of them look like consumptives. No doubt opium has hastened the downfall of a great many. Although in general, the Chinese seem to hold to the principle of the sanctity of human life, yet militarism is destroying this attitude. I hope that a strong man may soon arise amongst the Chinese to restore order and sanity to the national life.

On our way from Suining west to the Big Road we saw many of Shiong Keh Wu's soldiers retreating from Tungchwan, a town to the north of Suining and to the east of Chengtu. Yang Sen's forces there gave Shiong's men a severe beating, report having it that Shiong lost \$300,000 which he had there with him. After reaching Kienchow and turning north on the Big Road, we found thousands of soldiers marching toward Chengtu. For that reason we had some difficulty in securing accommodations at the inns and eating houses. We found it advisable to get to an inn early and to camp at the entrance to our rooms to prevent the soldiery from preempting it. We men slept out in the open courtyards anyway, for the air is better in them. We were a trifle apprehensive that we might not be able to enter the city because of the great crowds of soldiers, who we thought might be indicative of fighting. Had we been twenty-four hours later, we could not have gotten in. There is always this comfort, however,—that in case the city gates are closed there is always the foreign community at the University with whom we may camp.

February 9th.

This letter did not end when I expected it would. My predictions have come true. Yesterday afternoon at two o'clock the city capitulated to Yang Sen, Shiong, Dan, and Lai, the opposing generals, are reported to have skipped out of the city a day or two before. There was some firing during the night, but it is probable that the Chinese soldiers had so formed the habit of shooting that they could not stop in less than twenty-four hours after notice to cease firing had been given. Dr. Freeman says that they were probably shooting out the lights in the farm houses which they saw from the city walls. We all hope that Yang Sen may give us some real government for a while, but the escape of his opposing generals makes us think that he will have another war on his hands as soon as his opponents can recover themselves.

Tuesday was Chinese New Year. Ordinarily it is a time of great rejoicing and hilarity—something like our Christmas celebration—a "laorie" time, as the Chinese say. This year, however, it was quite subdued. The children have toys, gifts are given and exchanged, the women and girls—even the youngest—have their faces painted. Each child is expected to have new garments. Processions ordinarily are seen on the streets, although this year I am afraid there were not many. False faces are popular among the "kids." Every door has new door gods pasted on it. The kitchen gods, or "dsao sen," are placed afresh on the kitchen walls. An interesting story is the legend about these kitchen gods.

On the twenty-third day of the twelfth Chinese month these kitchen gods go up to heaven in a "jaodze" (sedan chair). The Chinese burn the picture of a jaodze. This act gives the gods something to ride in. Three days are required for the journey. When the gods arrive they report to the Great Spirit the condition of the household from which they come, telling whether the members of the family have been good or bad. One day is required for this duty. On the next day the kitchen gods begin the return journey on horseback. The household burns a paper horse to give the gods their means of return. If the family is especially apprehensive that their conduct has been very bad and that an evil report will be made, they smear the lips of the gods, before the time for their ascent, with honey or syrup, so that they can not say evil things about their charges. These gods are painted on paper and can be bought in the streets on or before New Year's day. I bought a few of them for curiosities.

This week we have had a vacation from Language school because of Chinese New Year. This with the two weeks I was away has given me a long vacation. I will have to get down to business next week. I have been reviewing some this week. It is the sort of thing that "get's one's goat" at times. It certainly is a clumsy and inconvenient language, especially as far as writing it is concerned.

Each foreigner who comes out here assumes a Chinese name, for the Chinese find it difficult to pronounce foreign names. Mine is Lo Er Dei—the nearest I could get to North. Therefore I hear the name Lo Sien Sen—that is, Mr. Lo—almost as often as I hear Mr. North. Sarah is Lo Simmu, or Mrs. North. The Chinese have only about two hundred common names, and about four hundred names altogether for four hundred million people. Such names as Lo, Chen, Ho,

Wang, Wu, Chang, Hsu and Lu are very common. Because of the scarcity of last names—I should say first names, for first names in Chinese are the same as last names in English—it is often confusing to know who is meant. Smith hasn't any show at all with a name like Chen.

What Killed the Trout?

Spring creek from the falls to the bridge has been cleaned out and the improvement in its appearance is considerable. The work was done last Friday by Fred Davis and in tearing away a lot of rubbish piled up below the falls he uncovered a dead trout. Outwardly the fish was in a good state of preservation and Mr. Davis at once notified game protector Thomas A. Mosher. That gentleman performed an autopsy and found what he believed indications of acid poisoning, as the liver of the fish was quite green and other portions yellow. Of course Mr. Mosher could not say positively that the trout had died from acid poisoning or any other deleterious matter in the water. Its death may have been from purely natural causes, but he stated that he would notify fish commissioner Nathan R. Buller of the incident.

There is no getting away from the fact that considerable quantities of oil are drained into Spring creek from some one or more sources, as almost every day it shows upon the water, and early in the trout fishing season fishermen who caught trout as far down stream as the fair grounds averred that they were so tainted with oil that they could not eat them. Inspectors of the Fish Commission have been in Bellefonte on several occasions but no change in the situation came as the result of their visits.

In connection with the big trout comment has been made in this office by several people that they are not nearly as plentiful below the falls as they were only a few weeks ago, and there is considerable speculation as to what became of them. Have they gone down stream into deeper water or have they been scooped out of the stream at night by illegal fishermen?

The "Vanity Box" Coming.

To any one with a taste for jazz music, the "Vanity Box," which comes to the Moose Temple theatre Wednesday evening, August 20th, is certain to provide a pleasing entertainment, for it is a musical comedy crowded with syncopated action and numbers, produced by an unusually talented group of musical comedy performers. Possibly no attraction of this period offers such an array of beautiful stage settings, gorgeous gowns and costumes, startling electrical effects and beautiful women, as will be seen with this production.

Included in the cast will be the famous French artist singer and dancer, Mitzi Sassi—the Ritz! Mitzi girl—whose work borders on the sensational, while the comedy of the well known "Broadway nut," Hal Kiter, is worth the price of admission alone. The company includes a number of dancers who are assisted in some of their work by the dancing demons, the "Radio Beauties," whose work is a sensation and a thrill.

A welcome added attraction will be the world's greatest jazz orchestra, the "Pennsylvania Twelve," which has been creating such a sensation in the Metropolis and by radio broadcasting.

Auto Wreck on Mountain Road.

Late Saturday night police officers in Philipsburg were informed of an auto wreck on the mountain road near the watering trough, and motoring to that place they found a Chevrolet car rammed against the guard rail. One man was at the car trying to get it back onto the road and being apparently intoxicated was placed under arrest. He gave his name as B. F. Clewell, of Port Matilda, and also told the officers that two other men were with him at the time of the accident, Elmer Cassidy, of Sandy Ridge, and J. K. Adams, of New York State. Clewell claimed that Adams was driving the car when the accident happened, although he admitted that he was the owner of the auto. Cassidy was later arrested at Sandy Ridge but Adams has not been apprehended. It is claimed that almost a pint of moonshine was found in the car and the men are being held on the charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

Another Auto Accident at Weaver Crossing.

Last Thursday evening William Kellerman, of Milesburg, accompanied by a man named Lockard, started on a motor trip up the state highway and at the Weaver crossing ran into a freight train shifting on the crossing with the result that their car was completely wrecked and the only wonder is that both men were not killed outright. As it was Kellerman escaped with a few slight injuries but Lockard suffered a number of cuts and bruises on the head. The men claim that they were unable to see the train because of the absence of any lights. Both the train and the car were going west, the latter being carried along one hundred feet or more then thrown aside a mass of wreckage.

William Wells and George Lyng were brought to the Centre county jail from Philipsburg last Thursday, in default of one thousand dollars bail each, on the charge of stealing two power motors from the mine of Isaac Heaton & Son, at Gorton. The young men gave their residence as Lawrence, Mass.

HARPSTER.—Mrs. Sarah M. Harpster, widow of Joseph S. Harpster, died at her home at Port Matilda on Sunday of general debility. She was a daughter of George and Mary Williams, early settlers of Worth township, where she was born on September 3rd, 1843, making her age 80 years, 11 months and 7 days. In November, 1866, she married Joseph Harpster and they went to housekeeping on a small farm adjoining that of her father, where they lived for forty-seven years, hence the greater part of her life was spent within a stone's throw of where she was born. She had been a member of the Methodist church for sixty-five years and lived in the faith in which she so implicitly trusted.

Mr. Harpster died ten years ago and shortly thereafter the family moved to Port Matilda where they have since lived. Of her eleven children Mrs. Harpster is survived by the following: J. H. Harpster, of Philipsburg; J. O., of Pittsburgh; G. W., of Port Matilda; Mrs. Jacob Moyer, of Indiana county; Mrs. H. B. Woodring, of Port Matilda; W. F., of Wilkensburg; C. A., of Tyrone; S. S. and Pearl, at home. She also leaves nineteen grand-children and nine great-grand-children.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church at Port Matilda at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Walter H. Williams, of Houtzdale, after which interment was made in the Black Oak cemetery.

CALDWELL.—Dr. Bertha T. Caldwell, prominent as a physician, civic and welfare worker in Johnstown, died at the Memorial hospital in that city at five o'clock on Sunday evening as the result of injuries sustained on the night of July 31st when she fell through the flooring of the Coopersdale bridge into the Conemaugh river.

Dr. Caldwell, who on one or more occasions visited Bellefonte as a guest of Dr. Eloise Meek, was born in Johnstown and a graduate of the Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia. She spent eight years in India as a medical missionary, returning to Johnstown in 1902. Since that date she had practiced her profession in that city. She was the first probation officer for the city of Johnstown and later county probation officer. She served several years as school director, was a prominent member of the Civic club, the Eastern Star, Order of Amaranth and Y. W. C. A. She was an active member of the Lutheran church and a teacher in the Sunday school. Burial was made on Wednesday afternoon.

Whiting—Lucas.—Henry F. Whiting, at one time principal of the Bellefonte High school but now located at Beaver, Pa., where he is a civil engineer in the employ of a railroad company, and Miss Adelia M. Lucas, of Bellefonte, were married on Saturday evening at the Presbyterian manse in Thompson by the pastor, Rev. W. C. Thompson. Mr. Whiting returned to Beaver on Sunday while Mrs. Whiting will be here several weeks before she joins her husband.

In their application for a marriage license the bridegroom gave his age as 64 and his occupation an engineer, the bride gave her age as 23 and occupation a waitress, having been employed at the Brockerhoff house the past two or three years.

McClellan.—Harry McClellan, of Milesburg, died rather unexpectedly at the Bellefonte hospital on Monday following six week's illness with typhoid fever. He was apparently on the way to recovery when he took a sudden relapse which resulted in his death. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. David McClellan and was born in Milesburg forty-nine years ago. Surviving him are his wife and the following children: Harry McClellan, of Milesburg; Mrs. Mary Lucas, of Somerset; William, Edna, Grace and Virginia, all at home. He also leaves several brothers. Funeral services were held at his late home yesterday afternoon, after which burial was made in the Treziyulch cemetery.

MEYER.—Thomas F. Meyer died at his home in Millheim on Monday evening, aged 60 years, 7 months and 27 days. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Grace Hartman, of State College, and one son, Paul J., at home. He also leaves three sisters, Mrs. John Rishel, of Spring Mills; Mrs. Nicodemus Lose and Mrs. Agnes Krader, of Coburn. Funeral services were held at his late home at two o'clock yesterday afternoon by his pastor, Rev. John S. Hollenbach, after which burial was made in the Fairview cemetery at Millheim. Mr. Meyer was a member of Camp 9833 Modern Woodmen of America, which attended the funeral in a body.

PORTER.—Mrs. Margaret Watt Porter died last Thursday evening at the Miller home in the Glades following an illness of several months. She was a daughter of James and Sarah Watt and was born at Rock Springs on October 16th, 1850, hence was in her seventy-fourth year. In 1895 she married James D. Porter, of Monmouth, Ill., who died several years ago. She leaves no children but is survived by one brother, M. J. Watt, of Tyrone. She also leaves a number of nieces and nephews living in Centre county. Burial was made at Graysville on Saturday afternoon.

MULFINGER.—Mac Edward Mulfinger, infant son of Edward and Mabel Keene Mulfinger, of Pleasant Gap, died at the Bellefonte hospital on Sunday of acute intestinal trouble, following an illness of several days. He was one year and seventeen days old. Burial was made at Pleasant Gap on Wednesday.

SHOLL.—John Thomas Sholl, a native of Miles township, died at the Danville hospital last Thursday, where he had been an inmate for almost twenty years. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sholl and was fifty-five years old. Surviving him are his mother and the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. C. H. Bierly, of Rebersburg; Mrs. Harry Noll, of Hublersburg; Mrs. Clarence Noll, of Harrison City; Mrs. Howard Ziegler, of Penn Hall, and William J. Sholl, of Millheim. The remains were taken to the Bierly home at Rebersburg where funeral services were held on Saturday afternoon, burial being made in the Rebersburg cemetery.

ACHENBACH.—Mrs. Anne Freed Achenbach, wife of Guy H. Achenbach, well known caterer and ice cream manufacturer of Lock Haven, died in the Williamsport hospital last Thursday following an operation for appendicitis. She was forty years old and in addition to her husband is survived by one son; her parents, three brothers and a sister. Burial was made on Monday at Lock Haven.

SHOPE.—Following an illness of several weeks Joseph B. Shope died last Thursday morning at the home of his son, John M. Shope, at State College, as the result of an attack of spinal meningitis, aged 69 years. In addition to his son he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Homer Gentzel and Mrs. Ben Neff. Burial was made in the Pine Hall cemetery on Saturday afternoon.

LEATHERS.—Mrs. A. H. Leathers, a former resident of Mt. Eagle, Centre county, passed away at her home in Dickson, Tenn., last Saturday morning. In addition to her husband she is survived by three sons and two daughters, namely, John, Harrison, Allison, Fannie and Emma, all of Dickson. Burial was made in the cemetery at that place.

Ammerman—Shultz.—George Raymond Ammerman, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ammerman, and Miss Mary Ruth Shultz, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shultz, both of Bellefonte, were married at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, at the Methodist parsonage in Milesburg, by the pastor, Rev. J. F. Andreas. They were attended by Donald Ray and Miss Margaret V. Woome. Immediately following the ceremony the young couple went direct to their already furnished home on the corner of Howard and Ridge streets where a wedding breakfast was served and reception tendered them. Tuesday evening fifty or more friends of the young couple gave them an old-fashioned serenade and a joyful truck ride around town. The bridegroom is an excellent and industrious young man, filling the position of clerk in Montgomery & Co's store and owning a small notion store on east Howard street.

Zimmerman—Sherry.—Harry Zimmerman, of Nittany, but who is employed as a painter in Bellefonte, and Miss Marie Sherry, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Sherry, of Bellefonte, were married at the parochial residence at seven o'clock on Monday morning by the rector, Rev. Father Downes. They were attended by Miss Agnes Hartle and George Carpeneto. Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride after which Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman left on the 9:25 train on a wedding trip east. The bride is a charming young woman and for several years past has been in charge of the office of Dr. R. L. Campers. For the present the young couple will live with the bride's parents.

Bierly—Eschbach.—Philip S. Bierly, a son of W. R. Bierly, formerly of Rebersburg, but now of Harrisburg, and Miss Delva Eschbach, of Brookville, were married on Thursday of last week at Riverside, Md. The bridegroom served during the world war with the Canadian Second division and was in front line engagements at Vimy Ridge and on the Rhine. After the war was over he located at Consort, Alberta, Canada, and engaged in farming but the lure of the States was too great and he returned to Pennsylvania and took up his residence at Brookville, where he is now employed on the Brookville Republican, edited by his brother, Karl Reed Bierly.

Waite—Gordon.—Joseph Montgomery Waite, son of Mrs. Sarah Waite, and Miss Marie C. Gordon, a daughter of Mrs. Anne Gordon, both of Bellefonte, were married on Tuesday evening by Rev. M. C. Piper, at his home in Milesburg. The young couple will live in the Price apartments, on Curtin street.

On Monday afternoon James Bailey, the Bellefonte barber, took a run to Lock Haven in his Ford coupe. At Flemington he picked up Kenneth Hassinger and Miss Freeze, who went with him to Lock Haven and on their return trip their car was side-swiped by a big sedan going in the opposite direction. Mr. Bailey sustained cuts on the leg and Mr. Hassinger cuts and bruises on his arm. The car was badly damaged. Following the accident the driver of the sedan speeded up and got away before its license could be obtained.

Monday night's steady rain was a god-send to the farms and gardens in Centre county. It was the first real good, soaking rain that has fallen in this section of the State in a month, and came at a time when it was badly needed.

Bellefonte Drops Two, but Still in the Running.

After a long stretch of victories Bellefonte dropped both ball games last week, a seven inning contest with State College on Thursday evening by the close score of 5 to 4, and a pitcher's battle with Millheim on Saturday by the score of 2 to 1. But the two defeats do not mean that Bellefonte has taken a slump. Far from it. The boys all played good ball but the breaks were not in their favor. That's the whole story.

As stated above Saturday's game with Millheim was a pitcher's battle, Cable holding Bellefonte to three hits, while Harshberger yielded only five. The absence of Sweng Smith was sorely felt at both the bat and in the field. The visitors took undue liberties with Weaver's arm when on bases, and their four stolen bases figured in their run getting. Sweng is the leading hitter of the club, and when he is absent on a day when hits are needed as they were on Saturday his loss is keenly felt.

When it comes to short stopping Malone is certainly the cat's whiskers in this vicinity. He makes easy outs of plays that the average amateur shortstops wouldn't get their paws on. Harshberger has pitched four games against the hard-hitting Millheim club and allowed just seven hits in thirty-two innings. He had one no-hit game, two one-hit, and one five-hit game. On one or two other occasions he has not been so successful, but when any pitcher in this class of baseball can set that outfit down with so few hits it is worthy of special mention.

In addition to defeating Bellefonte Millheim also downed Centre Hall on Thursday by the score of 6 to 5, while State defeated Centre Hall on Saturday by the score of 3 to 1. Following is the standing of the clubs:

	W.	L.	P. C.
Bellefonte	17	5	.773
Millheim	13	10	.565
State College	8	15	.348
Centre Hall	7	15	.318

Tomorrow State will play at Bellefonte and Millheim at Centre Hall, while next Thursday's games will be Millheim in Bellefonte and Centre Hall at State College.

Grangers Getting Grounds in Shape.

An advance is made each day in the preparation for the Grange encampment and fair at Centre Hall, August 30th to September 5th. The superintendent of the grounds is rapidly replacing the tent equipment destroyed by fire, and in a few days staking will begin and tent erection follow.

In every department satisfactory progress has been made toward a big and successful gathering, an institution Centre county Grange can be proud of.

The "Filipino Five," a musical company delighting all who were fortunate enough to hear them touring Central Pennsylvania, has been secured at great expense and will give free concerts each day. This is a step in advance in the kind of entertainment furnished and is alone worth the price of admission.

The plays to be given as evening entertainments will be of real dramatic merit, acted and staged in every detail with greatest care, and since they come from different communities in Centre county, should arouse active interest and deserve the support of each and all.

Saturday evening, Union Grange will present "The Old New Hampshire Home." Tuesday evening, Spring Mills—two enjoyable playlets. Wednesday evening, Rebersburg, "The Poor Married Man." Thursday evening, Halfmoon—"The Deacon's Honeymoon."

Admission 10 and 20 cents, according to age; each evening in the auditorium. The plays are in competition with each other, and critics able to judge the productions from every standpoint, will make awards of considerable value to the winners.

Bigger and more premiums are offered in every department and the exhibitor will be well repaid who makes the necessary effort in planning and preparing for a worthwhile display from farm, garden and orchard. And while the season has been unfavorable, it is hoped that pride in the reputation our county has achieved for the superiority of its agricultural products will urge increased efforts in making this show better than in past years.

Elmer Greene Was Held in High Esteem in Erie.

In our issue of August 1st we published a notice of the death of Elmer C. Greene, a native of Bellefonte, which had occurred at his home in Erie, Pa., on Tuesday, July 29th.

While we stated that he had played an important role in the development and application of electricity to commercial use we did not know at the time that the human side of this man of mechanical genius was so developed that he had endeared himself to every one in the community in which he spent thirty-one years of his life. The Erie Dispatch-Herald, of July 31st, carries a most unusual tribute to the memory of Mr. Greene by the Erie County Electric Company, with which he was so long associated. Sixty inches of space in that journal were dedicated to an expression of the esteem in which his associates held him.

According to a statement compiled by the State Highway Department 86 per cent. of the farmers of Centre county are owners of automobiles. Delaware county leads the State with 92 per cent.