



## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r.

Congressman Morrison has introduced a new tariff bill.

Even the Indians call on Gov. Curtin at Washington. The Governor don't feel too big to shake hands with any one.

The funerals of McClellan, Hancock and Seymour are noted for their simplicity as were those of Grant and Garfield for pomp and splendor.

There will be no suspension of silver coinage. The house committee on coinage, weights and measures, by a vote of seven to six, laid on the table the bill for a suspension of the coinage of silver.

The new marriage law should be repealed. While in the hall of the courthouse, the other day, a couple with fear and trembling approached us and inquired, "Where is the place to get a marriage license?"

Judge Hoy, Ch. of Democratic Co. Com., by an oversight, seems to have forgotten to appoint a Committee man for Centre Hall borough, to look after the interests of the party. Perhaps Judge might as well appoint some decent Republican.

Philadelphia is now agitating the question of taking the water works out of the hands of the city and leasing them to a company. In Centre Hall there is some agitation to take the water works from the company and have them given over to the town.

The Fitz-John Porter bill has passed the House, yeas 171; nays 113. The closing debate was enlivened by two brilliant speeches, one by Mr. Phelps and one by Mr. Curtin in favor of Porter. Curtin, in particular, caught the attention of the House by a desultory, but telling speech, full of personal reminiscence and anecdotes.

The Shenandoah victims are likely to remain buried for ever. The officers of the Susquehanna Coal Company are very much afraid that the men constituting the rescue party at Slope No. 1, will within the next 24 hours quit work, as they have reached very close to the point of the cave-in where there is great danger ahead. They have no means of escape should another rush of sand and rock come. Should they refuse to work it is probable that no other men can be found to take their places. Therefore the 26 bodies of the miners who were entombed on December 18 will forever remain in the pit.

The New York Tribune affects to see a hand-writing on the wall, equal in significance to that which distributed the political outlook of Belshazzar, in the steady increase of the Prohibition vote, which in New York State grew from 2,359 in 1879 to 30,531 in 1885, and in the whole United States from 5,608 in 1872 to 150,369 in 1884. This vote has progressed with an unremitting increment that indicates the vitality of the movement back of it.

Jess so. But there are about 10 million voters in the United States and by the time the cold water-drinkers count the half of that a good deal of benzine will be guzzled yet.

The memory of beneficence some times stretches backward with a surprising tenacity. So Gov. Curtin must have thought when he was called on at his home in Washington by a delegation of Seminoles, Osages, Creeks and Chickasaws from the Indian Territory, who chose to appeal to him to assist in protecting their treaty rights to their lands, because he was the honorable representative of the State of William Penn. William Penn's bones are dust, but his fair dealing with the Indians is still cited by them as the example of a good man worthy the imitation of a great people. Appealed to in the name of the founder, ex-Governor Curtin promised the Indian spokesman that he would do his best to preserve unimpaired the faith of the Government.—Philadelphia Record.

In their report on the relation between the President and the Senate the Democratic minority of the Committee on the Judiciary will show that while the precedents furnished by the records of the Senate are all in favor of that body, the decisions of the courts have supported the doctrine which the President asserts. The Senate has never acknowledged a doubt of its infallibility, and has always justified its claim to a share in the responsibility for removals as well as appointments to office, but the courts have in numerous cases, which will be quoted by the committee, held that the act of the President could not be questioned by Congress, and expect so far as the law expressly required its concurrence. Senator Pugh has found some very strong arguments in favor of the President's position.

## THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

Mr. Morrison's Tariff bill is not to be regarded as a thorough and symmetrical measure, says the *World*. It was not framed with that end in view, but for the purpose of submitting a plan of improving the situation to Congress which stood some chance of being made a law. It involves no general horizontal reduction after the manner of his last bill, but treats each separately so that it can be intelligently considered. It provides for a reduction of the revenue and hence a lightening of the burdens of the people, and for the desirable removal of duties from certain raw materials which enter into our manufactures.

It mainly affects the revenue by the reduction of the sugar duties. As these taxes are not properly protective, this feature is not pleasing to the Free-Traders, but as it will cheapen an article of almost universal consumption and thus lessen the cost of living it will meet with the approbation of the large majority of the people. The same may be said with reference to salt, which is placed on the free list, and also in regard to coal—a matter of much importance in view of the much-talked-of coal combination. The useless taxes on corn, potatoes, oats, hay and some other agricultural products are removed. They were originally instituted as a sops thrown to the farmers, but availed little or nothing, since prices were immaterially affected by them and in most cases they simply cumbered the tariff schedule. Unfinished wood and lumber are made free, an eminently sound provision, as the material is one of universal consumption particularly affecting the working classes. There is no true theory of protection in making the many pay for the profits of the few lumber kings of the Northern forests, and there is no effort being made to preserve our too rapidly disappearing forests anyhow. Mineral ores, hemp, jute and the grasses used in manufactures are placed on the free list; also coarse chemicals and earths used in pottery and paints.

With regard to the reductions in wool, cotton and metals and the various fabrics composed of them it would require experts to comprehend respectively their full forces. Not an interest can be in any way disturbed, whether for the public good or not, without raising an outcry. The discussion over them will be protracted and earnest. But even if in these particulars and others not touched upon at all no improvement can be arrived at, the benefits to be gained from the practicable reforms still remain, and it is to be hoped that they will not be lost sight of. It is a fact not to be refuted that the people are paying more revenue to the Government than is necessary—more indeed than the latter can conveniently dispose of without resorting to unwarranted expenditure. Congress ought to be able to lift this uncalled-for burden from the shoulders of the people.

## THE RAILROAD DECISION.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declaring the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads under the provisions of the new Constitution, is attracting much attention throughout the country. If sustained it may turn over a new leaf in railroad policy. It is understood the case will be carried on appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States on the ground that the decision impairs the obligation of contracts prohibited to the States by the Federal Constitution. The *New York Herald* says of the decision:

If it shall be sustained its importance to the people and corporations of Pennsylvania can hardly be overestimated. It will bring under the absolute control of that Commonwealth not only the two great railroad powers in the State—the Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia and Reading, which were parties to the controversy just decided—but also other corporations similarly situated. The extent of such control will appear from a consideration of the limitations put upon railroad management by the State Constitution of 1873, from whose operation the Pennsylvania, Reading and other companies have hitherto claimed to be exempt.

These provisions require corporations to pay in advance property taken or injured. They forbid consolidation with competing lines. They declare that no railroad company "directly or indirectly prosecute or engage in mining or manufacturing articles for transportation over its works, or in any business other than a common carrier." They prohibit discriminations in charges or facilities for transportation. They make it unlawful for any company to grant free passes to any person except its own officers and employees. In short, they are aimed generally and specifically against familiar railroad abuses.

Nor will the exercise of State control over the corporations which have heretofore claimed exemption be restricted in its importance to that Commonwealth. Operating as it will upon great trunk and interstate lines, its effect must assume a national significance.

## A DECISION AFFECTING SEVENTY-FIVE LAW SUITS.

An important opinion and decree was filed by Judge Furst, in Huntingdon, on 18, in a matter affecting 75 suits and a bill in equity pending in Bedford county, and 57 suits in Huntingdon county. In January, 1870, the Bedford county Bank, at Everett, was established, in which James Bell, P. O. Orbison, Wm. Dorris, John Scott, Thomas Fisher, Geo. W. Garretson, David P. Gwin, Horatio G. Fisher and John H. Glazier, of Huntingdon, were stockholders. These gentlemen disposed of their stock and withdrew from the bank on or before May 30, 1881. In October, 1884, the bank failed, leaving large liabilities and a great number of creditors. It was then claimed by the latter the Huntingdon stockholders named above were liable for the debts of the concern, not having given notice of their withdrawal, and the large number of suits mentioned were brought against them.

The equity proceeding in Bedford was by the stockholders in that county to compel the Huntingdon stockholders to pay their share of the debts. The defendants in the proceeding made application to the court in Huntingdon by a bill in equity, to have the further prosecution of the suits in Huntingdon county enjoined and restrained until the final decree in Bedford county. In November last, Judge Furst, by special injunction, granted the restraint asked for, and the decree made on 18th instant was upon a motion to continue the injunction. The motion was argued by R. M. Speer and J. D. Dorris, attorneys for the plaintiffs in the bill, and by John Cessna for the defendants. The court dissolved the injunctions and refused to further restrain the plaintiffs from prosecuting their suits. Since the decree a compromise has been made by the parties, setting all the suits and the equity proceedings in both counties, and also about seventy other claims on which suits would have been brought.

Gov. Curtin again made a good speech on the Fitz-John Porter bill, which passed the House the other day. The old war Governor was in his happiest vein of humor. His commanding figure towered erect in the main aisle near his seat and on him was trained every eye in the vast audience. The Governor injected into his bold, Romanesque style of oratory occasional bits of wit and sly strokes, which invariably set the House in a roar of laughter. Every man who interrupted him got the worst of it and sat down discomfited. The Governor collected everybody in the House about him, clerks, pages and all, before he got through, and sat down in a blaze of glory when he had finished. Porter, the ex-Governor said, had been denounced as a traitor. If Porter was a traitor he (Mr. Curtin) was a traitor, and if any one wanted to tell him he was a traitor let him tell it in a corner. The gentleman from Michigan (McCutcheon) had appealed to High Courts of Heaven and had summoned as witnesses Garfield and others who are dead. But General Grant would be there and there would be conflicting evidence before that court. There was not in the history of the country a death so sublime as Grant's. He would be in that court to answer the accusations which the gentleman said would be sustained above. Look out for Grant.

## GOWEN TRIPS 'EM UP.

On Saturday in New York a great sensation was created in financial and railroad circles by the announcement that President Gowen, of the Reading Railroad Company, had executed a brilliant coup, and on his own account had raised from \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000, with which not only to maintain control of the company, but to relieve it of its financial embarrassments and bring about a thorough organization, without having to ask favors of the much advertised Drexel-Morgan syndicate. He had all the money he needed and millions more; he proposed to push an aggressive campaign; he would look out for Reading himself, and permit no intrusion by unfriendly outsiders; more than the mere payment of the Reading's debts was in contemplation; a new Chicago trunk line with three eastern termini was to be established. Such in brief were the assurances given to crowds of inquirers.

## SECOND YOUTH AT 120 YEARS.

St. Catharines, Ont., Feb. 17.—Sarah Taylor, colored, a native of Virginia, died yesterday in the parish of Lowth, in this county, aged 120 years, 11 months and 8 days. Her mental faculties were unimpaired up to her death, and she was in possession of second sight, had a third set of natural teeth, and her hair was quite dark, having changed from white.

## DEATH OF REV. J. J. HAMILTON.

New Bloomfield, Pa., Feb. 21.—Rev. J. Hamilton, the well known Presbyterian minister, familiar to almost every person in this county, died at his residence near Ickesburg, on Friday night.

The coke-workers strike is one of great magnitude in its effects. The action of the coke-workers at their convention at Scottdale, on 18th inst., in resolving to accept no compromise, has had a tendency to increase the bitterness of the struggle and a settlement seems further away than ever. More men are idle now than at any time since the beginning of the strike. Only two small works are in operation and they are not running full. Notices will be posted up by many of the operators on their tenant houses in a few days, making a final demand upon their tenants to vacate their property on March 1, and after that time evictions will likely become general. About 400 Hungarians, armed with rifles, revolvers, hatchets and clubs, marched with military precision through Mt. Pleasant to the Standard Works. It has been reported that work was to begin there same day, and the parade was for the purpose of preventing its resumption. No attempt, however, was made to start the works.

The magnitude of the strike is greater than most people imagine. The amount of capital involved in the coke business from Pleasant Valley to Fairchance would reach \$18,000,000. This great sum does not include speculative investment in the coal land, but is the aggregate of the cost price of the different plants of the region. Not only is no interest being made on this great total, but on the other hand more capital is being expended in keeping the property intact from external danger from flooding. The monthly interest is almost \$100,000, while it is almost impossible to compute the expense without access to the books.

The railroads are losing freightage to the extent of 800 car loads daily, while 2,000 cars on side tracks are bringing no revenue whatever. On the other side about 6,500 laborers engaged in operating the works are losing \$9,000 daily in unearned wages, making for the thirty-three working days they have been idle a gross loss of \$207,000. Consequential damages to outside employment affected by the strike cannot be computed. Should the strike continue much longer, it will take years for both the capital and the labor to recover the ground lost on both sides during this unfortunate disagreement.

## THE ORPHAN SCHOOL SCANDAL.

The Harrisburg Patriot says there is little in the story of fraud in the management of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools that has not been known for some time to a considerable number of people throughout the state. But to the general public the disclosure made the other day came with the force of a humiliation and surprise. That a set of men could combine to wring inordinate profits out of the flesh and bones of the orphaned children of the country's heroes seems beyond belief, but the facts are convincing that however reluctant the public may be to accept the testimony which they erect, there is no escape from the conviction that a great wrong has been committed.

The methods pursued by the syndicate in compassing this fraud on the children and the state were deliberate and cold-blooded. Having first secured the cooperation of the man who audited the accounts they then proceeded systematically to multiply their profits by increasing the number of pupils under their charge. These steps having proved successful the pinching process was next inaugurated and by crowding vast numbers into meagre quarters, reducing the expenses of maintenance to the minimum figure and limiting the supplies to the cheapest in quality and smallest in quantity, the four men concerned have been able to wring an annual profit of \$50,000 a year out of the business.

It is presumed that the Governor will take the necessary steps to end this outrageous fraud without the urging that public sentiment is likely to offer. The proof having been presented that the contracts for the care and education of the wards of the Commonwealth have been violated it is his obvious duty to declare them forfeited. This course will to some extent repair the damage that has been done. But it will not meet the full measure of the public requirement. Dr. Higbee, who is Superintendent of the Schools, has been at least cognizant of the fraud, and the least the Governor can do to show his depreciation of that gentleman's conduct is to demand his resignation. This demand should be made immediately and unequivocally and if it fails to bring a response there should be a removal for cause.

## PINCHING ORPHANTS.

A Syndicate Profits from the Words of the State.

Philadelphia, Feb. 21.—The *Record* will to-morrow publish a six column article on the management of the Soldiers' Orphan School of Pennsylvania, which alleges not only official discrimination, neglect and corruption, but also that a syndicate is profiting at a rate of \$50,000 a year in the management of four of the schools.

The article says: Though the war ended twenty-one years ago, and though all the children whose fathers died on the battle field have long since passed their majority, the soldiers' orphan schools are still maintained by

annual appropriations from the Legislature, mainly for the enrichment of a few men whose faces are well known in the lobby at Harrisburg.

The syndicate headed by Ex-Senator George Wright, of Mercer, Pa., profits at the rate of about \$50,000 upon the management of four schools located at Mount Joy, Mercer, McAllisterville and Chester Springs. Official discrimination, neglect and corruption have prevailed in that branch of the State Government known as the Department of Soldiers' Orphans.

There is evidence at hand that the Chief Clerk of the Soldiers' Orphans Department, James L. Paul, was a participant in the profits of the Mount Joy School, and received checks for three years in succession at the rate of \$1,500 a year, all of which was charged up in the books as "salary."

The State does not manage its own schools, but pays a specific amount per week for each child admitted to the schools under private management, and the State laws require that the children shall be fed and clothed in addition to their instruction in educational and industrial pursuits. The express requirements of the law have been literally disregarded. The State inspectors have permitted flagrant abuses to creep in so that the children have not received that restraint which the State contemplated, and for which it roundly paid.

## JOHN B. GOUGH DEAD.

The Great Temperance Lecturer Succumbs to Paralysis.

Philadelphia, February 18.—John B. Gough, the well known temperance lecturer, died this afternoon at the residence of Dr. Burns, in Frankford, where he was taken on Monday, when stricken with paralysis, while lecturing in the Frankford Presbyterian church.

John B. Gough was born in England in 1817. In 1829 he emigrated to the United States, and followed the avocation of book-binding in New York where he became notorious for his drunken habits. In 1852 he took the pledge, and from that time became a changed man. He not only practiced total abstinence, but began to advocate the principle from the platform. His powers as a speaker were soon developed, and his reputation as an orator spread through the United States and Canada, in which he traveled and lectured. In Massachusetts the influence of his oratory was so powerful that his presence and advocacy were eagerly sought; and in the two years succeeding his reformation he traveled more than 12,000 miles, delivered 695 lectures, and obtained 31,769 signatures to the pledge. In 1853 he proceeded to England where his labors met with equal success. He remained in that country two years, during which time he delivered 440 lectures, and traveled 37,500 miles. As he passed through the country his fame as an orator increased, and thousands of reclaimed drunkards and happy homes gave evidence of the practical value of his labors.

Returning to the United States he again addressed crowded audiences in many parts of the country until 1857, when he second time visited Great Britain, where he met with additional converts and increased popularity.

## THE TROUBLE NOT ALL OVER IN THE COKE REGION.

Pittsburg, Feb. 22.—The Hungarians refused to go to work this morning at the Moorwood and Standard Works at the advance offered by the syndicate. They say they will do no work until their countrymen are released from jail. At Moorwood they swear they will kill any one who attempts to work until Frick & Co. have complied with their demand. The English speaking men are indignant at the Hungarians and will go to work to-morrow regardless of consequences. A special from Connelisville says: The trouble in the coke region is not ended by any means. The men at Donaldson's works near here all went to work this morning, but in one pit they refused to fill the wagons as full as heretofore and the pit bosses refused to haul the cars out.

At a largely attended delegate convention of coke workers, at Scottdale, it was decided to accept the advance offered by the operators and return to work at once. In a minority report the Hungarians decided to stand out until all the prisoners are released from jail. Among other matters discussed were store orders and large wagons, but the miners agreed to return to work and let these matters be adjusted under the law.

There is war between the temperance people and liquor dealers in Clearfield county on the license question. Many of the business men have been deterred from signing license applications by threats of boycotting and the liquor dealers are resorting to the same mode of warfare to protect their interests. The license court meets next month, and there will be lively times.

## LOCKED IN A FREIGHT CAR.

Four Days In Freezing Cold With Raw Corn for Food.

A young man is in the Ninety-ninth Street Hospital, New York city, who has just made a journey he will remember all his life. This is the story he tells:

"My name is Wm. Kotherford, and I am 20 years old. I was born in Londonderry, Ohio, where my father has a farm. I am a tanner by trade. We are poor and never had much money. Of late our place has paid even less than usual and I started about ten months ago, to find a place which my father and I might work on the shares with the owner. I had no money but went about sleeping in barns and sheds and getting food as best I could. When I started out I had a silver watch, but being fond of music, I traded it off for a violin. When I got 25 miles beyond the state line of Indiana I started back. Last Friday I struck Dayton, tired, hungry, discouraged and without a cent. On a switch was a freight train, which I heard was going to Columbus, 50 miles from Londonderry. Finding one of the cars open, I crawled in and found it half filled with corn. Then I heard a man close the door. I ate some of the corn and soon fell asleep. When I awoke the train was in motion. I ate more of the corn and felt thirsty. At last when the train stopped I pounded on the door with a stick. I heard a man come along and he seemed to be writing with chalk on the outside of the car. I hammered away with the stick and begged the man to let me out. 'There must be a tramp in this car' I heard him say to some one.

"Then he went away. I pounded and yelled, but no use. At night the train started on. I heard the tramp of the brakemen on the roof, and I beat with my stick to attract their notice. They answered by stamping, and once in a while I could hear their laags, but no help came. It was dark in the car but I could tell the difference between night and day. For a while I played on my fiddle, but at last I got so cold, hungry and thirsty that I could play no longer. I ate the corn until my mouth got sore. I was fearfully cold. Always when the train stopped I tried to make people hear me, but never succeeded, although I heard voices outside. This morning when I opened my eyes the door of the car was open. I crawled out, no one seeing me, and found that I could scarcely move. There was no feeling in my legs. Looking around, saw two big grain elevators and a wide river. I hadn't the least idea where I was. I walked slowly on and entered a little saloon and asked a woman where I was. She said, 'in New York, of course.' Then I tried to tell her that I was a stranger, cold and hungry, but I felt almost unconscious. I remember being put into the ambulance which brought me here. The doctor told me that my legs were frozen, but it would not be necessary to amputate them. When I am better Superintendent Keogh will send me home. My fiddle I left in the saloon."

## BARBAROUS INHUMANITY.

[Toupea Commonweal.]

A terrible story of inhuman cruelty reaches this city. During the storm a man, his wife and child were driving towards Kinsley, Kas., from the south, in one of the fearful blizzards which have characterized the weather for the past few days. Reaching a house the man asked for shelter, but the inhuman wretch who owned the house refused to permit either his wife or child to take shelter. The man begged and pleaded, but all to no avail. His wife was then unconscious and the babe was in the same condition, but both are said to have been alive. The man told them he would not accommodate them and said three miles further on they could probably receive protection. The poor man resumed his position on the wagon and started off. The next morning all three were discovered half a mile from the house frozen to death. The mother had the babe close to her bosom as if in the act of hugging it. The poor father still held the lines in his stiff hands.

Judge Wilson, of Clarion, in his instructions to Constables takes occasion to impress upon that class of officials the importance of realizing the responsibilities that rest upon a them. The Judge holds that Constables are bound to discover and return violators of the liquor laws, wagering or betting on elections, gambling houses and common gamblers, and "all other crimes and wrongs tending to corrupt the morals of a community." He further announces that a Constable's willful failure to make such returns renders him liable to indictment or the crime of perjury. Under this ruling few Constables do their duty.

## A \$1,000,000 FIRE.

Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 21.—A disastrous fire occurred in the business portion of this city this afternoon, the loss from which will probably exceed \$1,000,000.

The miners of the Clearfield region will hold a convention at DuBois, on March 3, to consider the question of wages.

Huntingdon county is passing through a Prohibition period, acting on license applications having been postponed until April. The war, however, between the cold-water drinkers and the would-be-dispensers of alcoholic beverages goes on as usual.

Judge Rowe, of Chambersburg, does not approve of anti-racean saloons. He requires all applicants for license to guarantee that their bars will be above ground.