

# The Centre Reporter



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NO. 11

## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

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Edmunds sent off a wooden nutmeg argument in reply to the President's message, in senate on Monday last week. There is not much bottom to his position.

We have received a copy of the *World Almanac* with the compliments of Joseph Pulitzer. The Almanac is decidedly one of the best put out this year. Price 25 cents and actually worth three times the price.

Seventy-two licenses out of one hundred and fifty were granted in Clearfield county.

Another dry town is Hughesville, Lycoming county, all the licenses being rejected.

About the biggest piece of baby statesmanship, of this age, is the effort of Senator Edmunds to stop President Cleveland from removing Republicans, after the party has enjoyed the fat places for 25 years.

The investigation being conducted by Governor Pattison and Attorney General Cassidy into the conduct of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools shows that the Chester Springs and McAllisterville places are little, if any, better than that at Mt. Joy.

Edmunds' broadside at the President was like a shot of the Merrimac at the Monitor—it scarcely left a dent. Edmunds, next night, was at the white-house reception, seeming to wear a look of "I only did it for fun." If Edmunds were president of a wooden nutmeg factory he would not be much out of his element.

The Republican bosses will evidently let Gen. Beaver's nomination go by default, seeing that the masses of the party are for him. The Hartranft movement was a feeler to test the temper of the party, and the responses not coming in to the tune of Hail Columbia, that boom-let will be left to wither while the prospects of the General will remain green.

The orphan school scandal in our state is on a par with the Tewkesbury almshouse infamy in Massachusetts. Both under Republican management, and the lucre pocketed helped to oil the machine run by the bosses to keep them in power. Robbing under the almshouse system in Massachusetts and under the orphan school system in Pennsylvania are two gems that will "shine."

Bismark has the rheumatism—so have one or two of the Reporter's subscribers. In Alabama a mother and daughter were sentenced for 21 years for the murder of the father. Logan, of Illinois, and Long, of Massachusetts, is a new presidential team that some republicans are talking about. Galusha A. Grow is candidate for the U. S. Senate, in place of Mitchell whose term will expire.

On 9th the miners in the Clearfield region met in convention and resolved upon their future action, 1,583 votes were cast for arbitration and 710 for strike. The operators will be asked to arbitrate their demands, and the miners will continue to work until a decision is reached.

This is a more sensible way than rushing wildly into a strike by which miners lose months of wages and all business in localities affected is disturbed, violence committed and property destroyed.

The Old Roman has a close hold on the affections of the people. In the Senate, when Edmunds in the course of a Republican speech spoke of Judge Thurman as the best, the greatest, and the noblest Democrat in the country, there was a rumble of applause through the Senate and galleries. The next day, when Senator Pugh was making his speech from the Democratic standpoint, he indorsed all that Edmunds said of Thurman and declared he "is the greatest, the wisest and purest American statesman now living." Thereat there was great applause in the galleries, which the President of the Senate found it difficult to suppress. There is no question Thurman has a stronger grip on the affections of the American people than any man in public life to-day. The old gentleman is in a good state of preservation, and in 1888, if Cleveland should not be nominated, may prove a likely candidate.

Still there is a faction of Democrats in Ohio, jealous of Judge Thurman, and they try to keep him under. In the late presidential race they even prevented the noble old Roman from getting the Ohio delegates for President. The unscrupulous often in this manner keep honest and pure men out of places of trust, because they can't use them for selfish purposes. That class of skunks are found nearly everywhere.

## DISPOSING OF \$79,000,000.

The education bill passed the Senate on the 5th inst., by a vote of 36 to 11. It provides that, for eight years after its passage, there shall be annually appropriated from the treasury the following sums in aid of common school education in the States and Territories and District of Columbia and Alaska: The first year, \$7,000,000; the second year, \$10,000,000; the third year, \$15,000,000; the fourth year, \$13,000,000; the fifth year, \$11,000,000; the sixth year, \$9,000,000; the seventh year, \$7,000,000; the eighth year, \$5,000,000, making \$77,000,000, besides which there is a special appropriation of \$2,000,000 to aid in the erection of school houses in sparsely settled districts, making the total fund \$79,000,000.

The money is given to the several States and Territories "in that proportion which the whole number of persons in each, who, being of the age of 10 years and over, cannot write, bears to the whole number of such persons in the United States," according to the census of 1880, until the census figures of 1890 shall be obtained, then according to the latter figures. In states having separate schools for white and colored children, the money shall be paid out in support of such white and colored children between 10 and 12 years old in the ratio such states bear to each other by the census.

No state is to receive the benefits of the act until its Governor shall file with the Secretary of the Interior a statement giving full statistics of the school system, attendance of white and colored children, amount of money expended, etc., number of schools in operation, number and compensation of teachers, &c.

No State or Territory shall receive in any year from this fund more money than it has paid out the previous year from its own revenues for common schools. If any State or Territory declines to take its share of the national fund, such share is to be distributed among the states accepting the benefits of the fund. If any State or Territory misapplies the fund, or fails to comply with the conditions, it loses all subsequent apportionments. Samples of all school books in use in the common schools of the States and Territories shall be filed with the Secretary of the Interior. Any State or Territory accepting the provisions of the act at the first session of the Legislature, after the passage of the act, shall receive its pro rata share of all previous annual appropriations.

Congress reserves the right to alter or repeal the act. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

## LET HIGBEE GO.

State Superintendent Higbee sent in his regular report of schools to Governor Pattison the other day. In this report the Superintendent states that among other things he has visited all the soldiers' orphan schools in the State and finds them in excellent condition. Of course Higbee did not know of the Governor's investigation and he doubtless felt sick when he read in the Philadelphia papers an account of the Governor's investigation. The report of the revolting condition of the schools was published the same day when Higbee reported that they were all right. Higbee ought to go. All these schools are under his alleged watchful eye, and he was either too dull to see what was going on or had other reasons for not attending to his duties. This orphan asylum scandal is the most disgraceful expose of the day. It should be pushed to the end, and our knowledge of Governor Pattison's habit of treating such evils leads us to assure the public that this time there will be no let up.

## A STEAL.

The blanks which the assessors supply to taxpayers under the new tax law are cumbersome and unwieldy. It will require about one million of these blank sheets to go around in this state. A sheet one-quarter the size would be large enough to contain all that is on the present sheet, and three-fourths of the expense of paper and printing of one million sheets be saved.

We see a big job, we mean a big steal, in this for somebody, with a divy, no doubt, for the state officials who order and permit it.

There is work here for the Auditor-General to look into, and a chance to stop a clear robbery when the big bill comes in for paper and printing. The job in its present shape is an unwarranted expense upon the treasury, and needs looking after.

Stop the tax-blank steal.

Ex-President Arthur is hopelessly ill. The bill increasing widows' pensions has passed.

Joseph McMeen, in Juniata county, has been arrested for poisoning his wife. The railroad strike in the west still continues.

## THE STORY OF THE ORPHANS.

The Investigation at Mount Joy Full of Startling Developments.

A Harrisburg dispatch to the Philad. Times says:

"With each recurring day the Governor's investigating party finds it less difficult to obtain evidence of the mismanagement of the Soldiers' Orphan School at Mount Joy. Monday very important facts were disclosed, and that without much effort. On Saturday the principal answered questions with great reluctance, but Monday he gave his evidence very freely and promptly complied with every request of the Governor and the Attorney-General. The commissioners were unable to get at the books of the institution on Saturday, but on Monday they were furnished without any protest. The principal also supplied a statement showing that there was expended for the quarter ended, September, October and November last, \$2,139. This statement was important in showing that not much more than \$8,000 was expended a year, to feed the three hundred orphans and employes in the school. Other testimony showed that the salaries paid to the principal and his subordinates, fourteen in all, were only about \$2,900 a year.

"The Governor had with him the records filed at the auditor-general's department, assuming to show how much clothing had been furnished to each pupil for the year ended May, 1885, and the price of it. These records were arranged to cover the amount of money required to be applied to the purchase of clothing—one-sixth of the appropriation voted by the State. To ascertain the correctness of these records a number of girls and boys were examined as to the articles they received in the year indicated. It was shown by the testimony of the girls that they had been given but one pair of gloves, while they were charged with four. Collars were also credited against them which they denied having received. The evidence of the boys was to the effect that they had not been furnished with boots in the year covered by the records.

"One of the interesting things presented at the hearing was a bill of fare of the school from October 1 last, carefully kept by Daniel Henry, aged 14 years. This record had been left in the bath room by the orphan, and the male attendant, Sherbin, captured it. Henry gave testimony to this effect, and Sherbin was ordered to produce the bill of fare, which he did in the meekest possible manner. The bill of fare for several days was as follows: January 1—Breakfast, fried bread; dinner, soup and meat; supper, prunes. January 2—Breakfast, beans; dinner, potatoes and corn; supper, apples. January 3—Breakfast, hominy; dinner, potatoes and turnips; supper, canned apples. January 4—Breakfast, hominy; dinner, meat and soup; supper, rice. January 5—Breakfast, gravy; dinner, potatoes and cabbage; supper, dried apples. January 6—Breakfast, beans; dinner, soup and meat; supper, canned apples. January 7—Breakfast, corn meal; dinner, cabbage and tomatoes; supper, current.

"According to Henry, black and un-sweetened coffee was furnished for breakfast and tea, without milk or sugar for supper. At all of the meals bread and butter were furnished. Mrs. McFadden, the cook, was subjected to a long examination, in which she gave a detailed statement of the quantity cooked each day. She denied the statement of Henry that the tea was not sweetened, stating that two pie-dishes full of sugar were used. She testified that four pounds of coffee and 1/4 of a pound of tea were used daily. Figures were presented showing that only \$360 were expended in the quarter ended November.

"Principal Kreider was a little flustered by the discovery of an interlineation of the word 'loan' in the account of James L. Paul, one of the members of the syndicate. The principal was forced to admit that he had inserted the word since the commission began its work. It had been written over other sums and he wanted to preserve the uniformity.

"An important witness was J. M. Hipple, principal of the school from August, 1883, to March, 1884. He admitted while he held the position there were at one time twenty-four pupils with frozen feet, and thirty with itch. This condition of affairs was ascribed in a large measure to the lack of comfortable quarters and the limited supply of hired help.

"If the amount expended for the table of the school the last quarter be taken as the average it costs about \$8,000 a year to feed the pupils and employes. The salaries, medical services and drugs cost \$3,200 more. If the legal amount applied to the purchase of clothing, about \$5,800 would be added to the expense list, another \$1,000 would cover all their expenses, leaving a profit to the syndicate from this school of \$17,000 a year. The breakfast for each pupil cost the management 1 1/2 cents, supper 2 cents and dinner 4 1/2."

## A GANG OF YOUNG BURGLARS

Reading, Pa., March 11.—Detective Schaefer, of this city, has succeeded in breaking up a gang of young criminals concerned in several daring burglaries recently committed in this city. This morning he captured a lot of tools which he found in their hiding places. The boys will be tried next week on the charge of robbing Darrah & Co.'s cigar factory, and one of them, now out on bail, has declared his intention of turning State's evidence, when he will tell the Court and jury how the robbery was planned and committed, and what was done with the stolen articles.

## MEASURE OF LAND DAMAGE.

The following may be of interest to many readers of the Reporter in this county: Webster K. Setzler sued the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad Company for compensation for the taking of two and one-fifth acres of land and consequential depreciation by reason of the dividing of his farm, burden of fencing and ordinary risk of fire from the operation of the road. Held by the Supreme Court, in an opinion by Justice Sterrett, reversing the Common Pleas of Chester county, that the owner of land injured by the construction of a railroad over his land is entitled to the difference between the market value of his land before the construction of the railroad as compared with the market value after the construction of the same. In determining the market value, after the construction of the road, the jury may consider the additional burden of fencing, the ordinary risk from fire incident to the operation of the railway, exclusive of fire risks due to negligence of the company, for which he can recover in another action, and the inconvenience of a severance of his farm, but these can only be considered in so far as they affect the market value at the time of the taking of his land. Thereby speculative damages cannot be considered. The jury should also consider any special advantages which may accrue to the land by reason of the construction of the road, which may increase its value specially, but these advantages must be special, not merely the general appreciation of land in the neighborhood off the line of the road, which the owner is entitled to enjoy in common with his neighbors.

## JUDGE KREBS' LETTER TO LANDLORDS.

Judge Krebs, of Clearfield county, has addressed the following letter to each of the successful applicants for license to sell liquor in that county:

Having granted you license to sell intoxicating liquors, your attention is called to the following provisions of the law:

1st. The giving or selling intoxicating liquors to minors, to insane persons or persons of known intemperate habits, is a violation of the law. By a person of known intemperate habits is meant a person who you know will get drunk if he can get the liquor. Getting drunk is being intemperate.

2d. For either yourself or your agent, clerk or barkeeper to permit any, spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider to be drunk on the premises, or the sale of liquor on Sunday, is a violation of the law. To sell spirituous or other intoxicating liquors and allow the person to drink the same on the premises and become drunk, is a violation of the law. To sell spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider to a person visibly affected by drink is a violation of the law.

For a violation of any one or all of these provisions your license will be revoked.

Your business, like all others, must be conducted at reasonable hours, and you ought to close your bar not later than 10:30 o'clock p. m. To keep open later is very strong evidence that you are not a proper person to have license. If you desire to have license in the future, you must remove all glazing from your windows, and screens from before your bars. Your bar rooms must be kept closed on Sunday, and boys and men who are not staying at your house as guests or boarders, and paying for the privilege, but who live in the vicinity and only loaf there, must not be permitted to go on Sunday. The employment by you of a barkeeper of intemperate habits is as much forbidden by the spirit of the law as the granting of license to a man of intemperate habits. You are responsible for the conduct of your barkeeper.

A disregard of the requests made of you in this will invite a rejection of your license in the future, as not being a proper person to have license.

## CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Joseph McMeen Arrested at His Wife's Grave for Poisoning Her.

Mifflintown, March 11.—Joseph McMeen was arrested to-day and lodged in the county jail by Sheriff Fowles and Constable Rollman, charged with administering strychnine to his wife, who died very suddenly at her home in Port Royal. It appears that McMeen went to Patterson and bought from Druggist Banks twelve grains of strychnine, for the purpose of killing rats. The drug placed the poisonous drug in an envelope and marked it poison. McMeen, it is alleged, transferred the drug to another envelope and sent it to his wife as quinine, to be used for the ague, from which ailment she was suffering. She took a dose of the drug and in a few moments afterward dropped dead. Her remains were interred at Cedar Grove cemetery to-day, and immediately after the funeral ceremonies McMeen was arrested, charged with the crime. He will receive a hearing to-morrow.

The General Executive Committee of the Knights of Labor have settled some thirty disputes in Philadelphia during the past two weeks. The committee is composed of five men, the trades of whom were a mechanic, a gold-beater, a saw-mill man, a miner and a railroad worker, who are exerting great influence in a quiet manner.

## AN ENTIRE FAMILY SLAIN.

A Frightful Crime Committed by a Seventeen-year-old Boy.

Kansas City, Mo., March 9.—Particulars have been received here of the murder of the Sells family by its youngest member, a boy seventeen years of age, near Osage Mission, Neosho County, Kan. The crime is one of the most horrible on record. Mr. Mendel, living 13 miles northwest of Osage Mission, was awakened about 1 o'clock yesterday morning by a scream, shortly followed by another coming from the road in front of his house. He went to the door and was met by Willie Sells, the son of J. W. Sells, living about a quarter of a mile up the road. The boy cried out: "Mr. Mendel, a man is at our house with a hatchet and has hurt father and mother. I don't know how badly." Mendel went with the boy, arousing J. I. Rice, another neighbor, on the way. Upon reaching Sells' house a most horrible sight met their eyes.

In the bed in the north room lay Walter Willie's eldest brother and bedfellow, aged nineteen, his throat cut and the entire top of his head chopped off, exposing the brain. Passing into the main room, where a light was burning, they stumbled over the form of Mr. Sells, his head crushed and almost severed from his body. Near by lay Mrs. Sells, aged 43, her head mashed and a fearful gash in her throat. On the bed in the southeast corner of this room lay Ina, Willie's sister, aged fourteen, killed in the same manner as the other three. Near Mr. Sells' head was a bloody butcher knife and on a chair a hatchet, matted with hair and blood.

Sells related how he informed Mendel, and went back to the Sells' homestead. The Sells family were highly respected country people. They were all members of the Methodist church. Mr. Sells was a school teacher. Willie, the son, is undoubtedly the murderer, and the only motive he could have had was that his brother Watty had been attending school away from home, and he had become jealous. Watty had just returned from school and Willie, after murdering his brother, probably thought it necessary to kill the others to conceal his crime. The trial will take place in April.

## FROM THE WHEAT BELT.

The Crop Will Not Average Well Over the Great Grain Region.

St. Louis, March 11.—The Planter and Stockman, of this city, publishes a full report of the condition of the wheat crop in the entire winter wheat belt, the information being derived from a very large number of reliable correspondents. The average is nearly the same as last year. As to the present condition Tennessee reports the plant stood the winter well.

In Kentucky the plant is growing, the heavy snows of February were very favorable and under good conditions an average crop is looked for. In Michigan wheat went into the winter in a bad condition and on account of bad weather and little snow much of the plant has been seriously injured.

Indiana has also experienced very changeable weather for the past month, which has injured the plant to some extent, and the prospect for a full crop is poor. The outlook is about the same in Ohio. Kansas reports are conflicting and the prospects are only fair. In Missouri the outlook is favorable, and with no decided change for the worse before April there will be an average crop.

Illinois makes an exhibition much like Kansas. The condition differs greatly according to locality, and only under unusually favorable circumstances can there be more than a three-fourths crop. From the Pacific coast all correspondents agree that while the crop is not as far advanced as last year, the prospects now are excellent. Old wheat has generally gone out of farmers' hands and shipments are large.

## THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE.

The Action of the Clearfield Men Giving the Operators Much Concern.

Huntingdon, March 14.—The coal operators in the greater part of Federation No. 3 were but little more than spectators of the movements of the miners before the strike was brought to a crisis in Clearfield and made general by the action at Houtzdale yesterday. There were reasons to hope, from the overwhelming majority given in favor of arbitration when the former vote was taken, that the men in the Houtzdale district would continue their refusal to strike and compel the strikers in other parts of the federation to go back into the mines and the strikers depended upon. But now the latter are compelled to take cognizance of the changed situation and to look after their imperiled interests. The small expenses at the mines are as great when they are standing idle as when in operation, except the wages of miners, and numerous other branches of industry are affected. Traffic on the railroads that are depending upon the bituminous coal trade is practically at a standstill and thousands of train men are thrown out of employment.

Conferences between the operators and miners with reference to the difficulty will, therefore, be immediately held, the first at Houtzdale. As the men there were the last to come out it is thought they may be the first to return. They will be met to-morrow by H. G. Fisher and John Whitehead, of this city, the former of Fisher, Miller & Co., and the latter of Berwin, White & Co., who employ thirteen hundred men.

## INFAMY'S CLIMAX.

Soldiers' Orphans Being Starved at Mercer.

Mercer, March 15.—When the Governor and Attorney-General reached the Soldiers' Orphan School here to-day they naturally expected that everything would be in good condition and the officials ready to receive them. An hour's investigation, however, proved that while some matters had been corrected, numerous evils continued to exist. There had been made a poor attempt to clean up about the rickety old buildings and give a borrowed air of comfort to the surroundings. Here and there evidences of a recent application of the scrubbing brush were noticeable, and in some parts of the building the bed clothing had been changed, so as to give the casual visitor a false impression of cleanliness.

The Principal and Matron assured the Governor that the regular bath tubs had been used as late as Saturday, but the appearance of the bath tubs in the room did not bear out that pretense. There are but two tubs in the room. One of them was found to be too much cracked to hold water, and the other showed a quantity of dirt that must have been several days accumulating. Some of the boys and girls were not provided with full regulation suits. The dormitories were greatly over-crowded. A number of children slept three in a bed, and no bed had less than two occupants, even where the mattresses were but 33 inches wide. The streets and bolsters on some of the beds were so filthy that the Attorney-General declared they were worse than at Mount Joy. To cap the climax a petition was handed to the Governor, signed by more than 50 boys, stating that they had not enough to eat and asked for relief. Much of the clothing of the scholars was found to be very shabby, and a room was revealed containing sufficient absolutely worthless old clothing to breed a pestilence. It was the intention to have this lot of worn-out rags washed and patched and issued to new comers and smaller children as new clothing.

It has been discovered that a vast political and ring influence has been keeping the public in ignorance. Witnesses, both boys and girls, who have been before the committee, state that the food is very poor and often stale and full of worms that many were sickened at the sight, but they did not complain for fear of punishment. The Hammer boys and others were recently so horribly beaten by the principal with white thorn rods that they lay in the infirmary. The Momeyer girls, who say they were not allowed to wear shawls, suffered from cold on account of the tumble-down buildings. Undue familiarity between the sexes was winked at. No letters containing complaints were ever allowed to leave the institution, and the writers were subject to cruel hazing and denounced as tattlers.

## SHAMOKIN PORTERS.

Shamokin, March 11.—A rivalry which has existed between the porters of the Windsor and Vanderbilt hotels culminated this morning in a bloody encounter. The Windsor porter had secured a traveling man at the Pennsylvania Railroad depot, and was on his way to the hotel when the Vanderbilt representative endeavored to get possession of the stranger. A fierce fight ensued, and the Vanderbilt man knocked his opponent to the ground. The latter then ran to the hotel, got a razor, and endeavored to cut his assailant's throat. He succeeded in inflicting a number of severe gashes around his head and shoulders.

Judge Krebs, of Clearfield, fined a druggist \$300 for selling liquor without license.

## Thoughtfulness of the Stamp Clerk.

The delicately thoughtful stamp clerk described below is an official at the postoffice in Minneapolis, and it is a correspondent of The Tribune of that city who thus dilates on her ineffable sweetness, omitting, however, to say if she be old or young. "When a trembling youth or a blushing maiden hands her a precious package with the addressed side down, she never turns it the addressed side up with reckless indifference as to the burning sensation to the flitting heart and the embarrassment of the owner of the package outside the stamp window. But not she. The package is always weighed wrong side up, and the trembling one without breathes an inward blessing on her."—Boston Transcript.

## Description of a Toboggan Suit.

A lively Philadelphia girl describes the toboggan suit as follows: You first get a long and wide roll of flannel, and, having divested yourself of the majority of your clothing, you hold one end of this to the back of your neck, get your maid to hold the other, and then turn yourself slowly around until you have enveloped yourself head to foot. Over this you put a Bloomer costume of heavy flannel, and over this again a jacket and skirt made out of a blanket. Draw long woolen stockings over your legs, put your feet in moccasins and your head in a small sack. You will then look like an attenuated football, and you will feel like one. That's what they call a toboggan suit.—Chicago Journal.

## The Result of Inaccurate Surveys.

The value of the general triangulation of the country conducted by the coast survey, in order to afford accurate base lines, may be estimated by the fact that when the best maps of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri are plotted together, the Missouri and Ohio rivers become a series of irregular lakes, without any connection, the local outlines being too inaccurate to coincide.—Boston Transcript.

## Education for Nevada's Young Indians.

There are from 1,500 to 2,000 Indian children in Nevada, who ought to be educated, and it is proposed to erect a government school for this purpose at Carson.—Chicago Times.