

The Centre Reporter.



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NO 5

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ - - Editor.

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WILLIAM P. REBER, ARON WILLIAMS, Secretary, Chairman

New York had three million dollar fire on Broadway, early Monday morning.

It was estimated at the treasury department to-day that the decrease in the public debt for January amounts to \$15,000,000.

Let Utah abolish her polygamy and Dakota her blizzards, then admit them as states—not before.

The *Keystone Gazette* goes for the county surplus with the greed of a hyena. It beats all the "ring" you ever heard tell of.

It is thought this week will settle the great strike in the Lehigh mining region. There is great suffering among the striking miners.

Republican boss McMans, of Philadelphia, is in favor of G. W. Childs, of the Ledger, for President. That's better than Blaine or Sherman.

So many sheep having been killed by the blizzard in Texas, the tariff monopolists are likely to charge it to Cleveland's message on the tariff, which was cold on the wool business.

Some queer questions come before courts for decision. A Georgia Judge has decided that when a man is unable to give his sweetheart an engagement ring, but presents her with a yearling heifer instead, the heifer's descendants are the private property of the lady, even after she marries the giver of the animal.

A rich Philadelphia has \$50,000 which he wishes to put to some charitable project, and solicits thro' the *Times*, suggestions from his read-rshew best to donate it. A hundred different ideas have been advanced concerning all sorts of "goodness." We suggest that it be divided among one hundred preachers, who, as a rule, don't deliver longwinded sermons.

Priests may marry. In Paris, a few days ago the High Court of Cassation (Appeal) has pronounced a judgement which is of the highest importance to the French Catholic clergy. It holds that, in spite of the precedents established within its own precincts, the marriage of a Roman Catholic priest is a perfectly lawful one, maintaining the judgement of the Amiens Court of Appeal.

In Reading the high license law, from present indications, will drive a big number of saloon and hotel men out of the business. Wholesale liquor dealers have also been slow in taking out licenses for this year, and it is likely a number of these will also quit the business.

The principle trouble seems to be in securing bondsmen on account of the new law being so strict in its requirements. A large number of applicants for licenses will likely be unable to furnish the proper bondsmen, and on this account it is believed that the number now in business will be reduced at least fifty per cent.

With the taking of the next census in two years, 1890, Centre county will show up a population of 40,000, and over, and be a separate judicial district, with the office of associate judge abolished. All counties having 40,000 population, under the new constitution become separate judicial districts, without associate judges, the idea being, no doubt, that when a county gets as big as that, it can take care of itself without ass. judges. Judges Munson and Rhoads bid fair to go down into history as Centre county's last associate judges.

\$50,000. Philadelphia is much wrought up at present over the offer of a gentleman of wealth to place \$50,000 where it will do the most good. It is not so much the fact that a Philadelphia has been discovered benevolent enough to want to give \$50,000 to his fellow creatures that causes the excitement, as the fact that the citizens of that town have been invited to make suggestions as to the disposition of the money.

Every one knows exactly what he would do in the way of charity if he had some other man's money to do it with. People are never so liberal with their own wealth as with that belonging to others, and it is not to be wondered at that a general interest has been excited as to the disposition of this particular \$50,000, or that projects have been put forward which would absorb a hundred times that amount.

Among the objects deemed worthy of assistance, and in behalf of which pleas have been made, are the following:

A college for girls, such as the Girard College for boys; a co-operative manufacturing business; give it to the Zoological Garden, with the understanding that the Sunday admission is to be ten cents all around; relieve a man, wife and three small children at 616 Cherry street; form a musical association to give free concerts on holidays; apply it to pay the license of saloonkeepers who can't raise the \$500; a chair of forestry in the University of Pennsylvania; give it to poor blind people; establish a public art gallery; endow a restaurant to furnish food; establish a free Sunday supper-room for non-church goers; start free milk houses for children and invalids; establish a wooden leg factory to place artificial limbs within the reach of all, thus putting people on their feet again; buy Southern land and distribute small farms to poor, worthy men; establish a traveler's rest; give it to the Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty; give it to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one half to be applied to the pay of a reporter to search for infringements of the law; erect a building like the Cooper Institute; pay off the debt on a certain Methodist Church; apply it to the higher education of indigent young ladies; devote it to mission work in Camden; give it to the Franklin Institute; share it among soldier's widows; buy coal with it and sell at half price to the poor; erect cheap houses for poor families; give it to the Allentown Female College, for the education of poor girls; establish a home for poor artists; build a hospital for consumptives in the pine woods; spend part of it in having the Third Commandment printed on slips and cards to be hung up in public places, give it to the striking coal miners; help young business men with it; give it to the Tract and Mission Society; break up monopolies with it; establish a college at "historic Gettysburg."

BECAUSE THEY FEAR HIM.

The Republican newspaper organs are doing what they can to create a diversion against the renomination of President Cleveland. Wherever and whenever they find the smallest opportunity to foment discussion among the friends of the President they make the most of it. They shower fulsome praise upon Mr. Randall, they pat Gov. Hill encouragingly upon the back, and magnify every contest in democratic committees and conventions into a fierce struggle between the national administration and its alleged opponents. And thus they hope to create sufficient opposition to the president within the ranks of the democracy to render his renomination impossible.

The anxiety of the Republican journal to prevent the candidacy of President Cleveland for re-election is born of their fears. They know full well that if renominated, he cannot be defeated at the election. They thoroughly understand that if he is again a candidate for president he will receive more Republican votes than were cast for him in 1884. Hence their persistent and frantic efforts to prevent his renomination. Hence their solicitude for the political standing of Mr. Randall and other prominent men in the democratic party who are supposed to have been stung by the presidential tarantula.

But the nervous republican journalists will fail in their purpose. They must expect their fears to be realized. The democratic people are with the president and they will demand his renomination. The wisest politicians of the democratic party are with the president and clearly understand that his renomination means his re-election. Even those democrats who think they have personal reasons for preferring some other candidate concede the popular strength of the president and feel that it would be better to accept his re-election than to imperil the success of their party by risking a new candidate.

Chicagoans drank half a million dollars worth of wine last year.

Guess their ladies helped—they are noted for big feet.

SWEEPING THE STATE LIKE A FIERCE POLAR BLIZZARD.

TRAINS BURIED IN DRIFTS.

Reading, January 28.—The snow blockade exceeds anything of the kind in thirty-five years in this section of the State. There was a blockade to-day on nearly all the railway branches entering this city, and country roads were rendered almost impassable by the tremendous snow drifts.

Allentown, January 28.—The roads have not been so badly drifted for scores of years. Many are filled with snow as high as the fences. At many points farmers turn out in bands and open roads. The non-arrival of Willoughby Rahmer, the Strausstown mail carrier, has created some alarm among his friends. Rahmer left Lenhartsville, Berks county, on Friday morning and was due here at six o'clock the same evening. He has not been heard from and it is feared that he is lost. His route is through an isolated section of the country. Milkmen and butchers on their way to this city got stuck in drifts and could neither move forward nor backward, and but for timely assistance would have frozen to death.

Lancaster, January 28.—The trouble from the snow on the Reading Railroad still continues. There has been but one train from Reading in the last twenty-four hours. The train which left that city last evening reached Lancaster this afternoon. It was fast in snow-banks at three different points. Finally at Petersburg the engine was thrown from the track. The passengers, who had been on the train all night, walked to this city, a distance of six miles, this morning, with the thermometer at zero.

Carlisle, January 28.—The snow storm here is the worst that the valley has known for years. All the country roads are blocked with snow, and the railroads find it difficult to keep the tracks clear for more than an hour or a two at a time. The wind is rising and the prospect is that all communication will be closed by morning.

Bethlehem, January 28.—The snow on every road leading from Bethlehem is drifted to a height level with the fence-posts, and such a general blockading of roads has not been experienced before within the recollection of the oldest farmers. For two days no mail has reached here from the slate regions and the Bath Railroad is abandoned. The Thursday night passenger train, which got stuck in a ten-foot drift near here, is still snowed in. The engines sent to its relief got snow-bound. The town is full of strangers snow-bound and unable to get to their homes.

SUFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA.

The people of Beardsley, Minn., a small town 150 miles west of St. Paul, are getting desperate. On Tuesday a number of farmers drove into that place after fuel, and there being none, tore down the railroad company's snow fences and hauled away several loads.

Henry Stonebraker, who has arrived here from Beardsley, tells a harrowing tale of the sufferings of his neighbors. He says: "Since Christmas we have not seen a railroad train, but that is a minor consideration when I tell you that for a week before I left there was not a stick of wood or a drop of coal in the whole region, and not a pound of oil. By uniting several families in one and keeping a single fire going by the use of twisted hay and straw we have just managed to eke out a precarious existence. There have been three deaths from freezing. At Brown's Valley the situation is worse. There the people have been short of provisions for some time, as well as without any lights, but by going out in the Indian reservation some green fuel can be obtained. It is almost impossible to stir abroad. The snow is several feet deep and in many places the drifts are fully eighteen feet in height. I have seen some pretty tough sights there within the past few weeks. At one place there was a woman with a babe but a day old and not a sign of a fire in the house."

UNEQUAL TAXATION.

One of the glaring inequalities of the present tariff laws is that salt used for the seasoning of meats is subject to duty while salt used in pickling codfish is free of duty. This is a discrimination in favor of the New England fishermen and against the farmers, butchers and pork-packers of the whole country. In the grab-game of protection the congressmen who represent the codfisheries were sharp enough to pick up a little free trade for the benefit of their local industry.

But what justice is there in legislation which taxes the farmers, butchers and meat-packers and exempts the fish-dealers of the New England coast?

Just as the Reporter frequently remarked, tariffs paid against the agriculturist in the main, and the monopolists reap the benefit. What we want is more legislation to favor the farming interests of the country and less for the monopolists.

TO KILL THE CZAR.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says that an army officer, who had been shot in the region of the heart was taken to a hospital, where the doctor declared the wound mortal. The officer thereupon admitted that he had shot himself in order to avoid the necessity of shooting the Czar. He said he was a member of a secret society which had balloted to decide who should undertake to assassinate the Czar, and the choice had fallen upon him.

Several persons in the hospital who overheard the confession were immediately arrested.

The labor committee which demands proceedings against the Reading company for violation of its charter does not meet with much love at the state capital.

It is very evident that Governor Beaver and Attorney General Kirkpatrick are reluctant to move against the powerful corporations of the State which openly violate the constitution. The governor did not give the constitutional defense committee of Philadelphia any encouragement when it presented a memorial asking that steps be taken to bring the Reading Railway Company to justice for violating their chartered rights, and as stated above, cold water was thrown on the movement of the Knights of Labor committee by the attorney.

Mr. Kirkpatrick's decision didn't evidently please the committee. They thought the matter savored too much of red tape. They are of the opinion that, as citizens of the commonwealth, the calling of the State's attorney's attention to the fact that the constitution is being violated should have prompted him to make inquiry and summon the law breakers before him, to show cause why their charter should not be forfeited.

The men, however, are determined to test the matter and will appear here at the designated time with sufficient proof that the Reading Railway Company has purchased coal lands subsequent to 1874 and are now operating them.

The Lowry-White contest over the Twelfth Indiana district promises to be far more exciting than the recent Thobe-Carlisle case. In the latter the Republicans had nothing at stake except what capital they could make out of assuming to be the defenders of the labor element. In the event that White is unseated a Democrat is returned from the Twelfth district, which is naturally Democratic, the political complexion of the Indiana delegation will be reversed. The importance of this point lies in the fact, should it so result, the Republicans would not have the constitutional majority of States to elect the next president in case the election should be thrown into the house. It would require 20 States to decide the issue, and without Indiana and Michigan the Republicans would not have that number.

The grounds of contest against White, rep., are that he is not a naturalized citizen, and was not eligible.

A Pottsville merchant a few days ago said:

The small retail store-keepers in little mining settlements are in a quandary. They do not dare to refuse credit to the strikers and yet they fear ruin if they do, for they remember the ruin that was caused to hundreds by the miners' strike of 1875. To escape from this dilemma these store-keepers exhibit empty shelves to their credit customers, declaring that they have no stock and no cash to buy with and that the wholesalers have notified them that all credit is suspended while the strike lasts. Some of these retailers do keep a very small stock of goods, which they sell to cash customers under pledge of secrecy, the goods being delivered at night.

The sugar trust is a big thing. Since its organization eight weeks ago it has advanced the price about 1 1/2 cents per pound. The average consumption per capita is 52 pounds a year, which adds to the profits of the sugar pool \$46,800,000. Further, it says, "it is extremely probable that the advance on sugar will be 4 cts. per pound. Moreover, the Sugar Trust magnates are scheming to secure control of the raw sugar crop of the world. They aim to cut fat dividends at both ends of the trade; to squeeze the producers at the same time that they are robbing the people. It is currently stated and undenied that the Trust is capitalized at four times the value of the plants. On this watered stock the people are called upon to pay big dividends." Over nine tenths of the sugar used in the United States is refined by the Trust, which includes 16 Northern refineries and several in New Orleans. They have all pooled their issues, on the Standard and steel rail plan, and propose to go for the poor man's sugar bowl.

A bill is before congress to change inauguration day to April 30.

The post office committee has reported unfavorably on the penny postage bill.

O'NEILL'S CONVICT LABOR BILL.

It Will Prohibit the Government from Purchasing Supplies Made by Them.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Representative O'Neill, chairman of the Labor Committee, says he would like to introduce a bill to which he has given considerable thought that he knows would be for the benefit of the working classes at large, but he is afraid the scheme is unconstitutional. His idea is to have all the goods made by convicts plainly marked with the words, "convict made." He knows that this would be a good thing, but he does not see how it can be done, as the majority of convicts who are employed in the manufacture of goods are not in United States penitentiaries but in State institutions.

Another bill relating to the same subject that Mr. O'Neill is now formulating is to absolutely prohibit the Government from purchasing any supplies, etc., with or without competition, made by convicts or prison labor. He said that last summer when the Indian contracts were being awarded he was amazed to find that fully two-thirds of the articles submitted in competition were the product of prison labor. He holds that it is entirely within the province of Congress to prohibit this and that while he recognizes the necessity of keeping convicts at work their labor should not be used to the detriment of honest men.

MRS. HENDRICK'S OPINION.

She Thinks She is Entitled to Government Aid if Mrs. Logan Is.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 30.—Mrs. Thomas A. Hendricks, widow of the late Vice-President, has arrived here from California on route for Indianapolis. She said in an interview: "I see in the newspapers that Mrs. John A. Logan and Mrs. Blair have received pensions from the Government. Fortunately I am in such circumstances that I do not absolutely require assistance from the nation, but it seems no more than right that similar recognition of the services of my husband should be shown. The only tender I have had of this nature was the salary of Mr. Hendricks for one year. The Democratic party is solely to blame for the slight my husband's memory has thus received. It was in the majority and could, without difficulty, have shown respect to one of its fallen leaders in some such way. Mr. Hendricks was elected for four years, and had freely poured out his strength for the good of the party. Certainly it would seem that if I am entitled to any of his salary, it would be for the whole term for which he had enlisted as Vice-President. Intellect, it would certainly appear, is not appreciated by the Democratic party."

The Ives Liquor Bill Valid.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 28.—The Supreme Court, it is learned on excellent authority, has affirmed the validity of the Ives liquor law which was passed by the late Legislature. The matter came up on an appeal from Hennepin County, where there are about forty cases which have been waiting this decision of the Supreme Court. The Ives bill provides for the imprisonment and fine of liquor dealers who sell to minors and on Sundays. It is a very stringent law, providing that there shall be imprisonment in each case, the fine not being exchangeable for the imprisonment. In the cases that have been tried so far under this law the penalties imposed have usually been a fine of about \$75, with imprisonment of from 30 to 60 days in the county jail.

Calumet and Hecla Copper.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 28.—President Agassiz of the Calumet and Hecla Copper Mine, who has been visiting the mine during the past week, suddenly left for New York Saturday. His departure was unexpected by the mine officials. P. C. F. West, the chief civil engineer of the mine, also left for Boston yesterday morning, and it now seems tolerably certain that the mine will not be reopened before Spring, at least the brief visit and inspection of the President and his speedy return to the East carry with them only this inference.

Cox Sentenced to Hard Labor.

DUBLIN, Jan. 29.—The trial yesterday of Mr. Joseph R. Cox, charged with addressing proclaimed branches of the National League, resulted in a verdict of guilty. Mr. Cox was sentenced four months' imprisonment at hard labor. He took an appeal and was admitted to bail, but on leaving the court house he was again arrested. The new charge brought against him is that he was guilty of a breach of the crimes act in addressing the tenants at Kildysart.

An Old Farmer's Cold Water Bath.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 27.—Robert Porter, aged 65, a farmer of Stoughton, Mass., bathed in a spring on his lands last week, notwithstanding the thermometer at the time registered 15 degrees below zero. It appears to be nothing unusual for Porter, who represents that he has taken a bath daily in this spring for the past quarter of a century.

Weavers May Join the Knights.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Jan. 28.—The weavers will probably organize as a Knights of Labor assembly. They are not satisfied with the advance granted them at the recent conference. A meeting has been called for discussion of the matter.

Arrest of an Embellisher.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Jan. 30.—Captain Reed arrested yesterday morning one John Morris, in answer to a communication from the Massachusetts police, who say that he is wanted in that State for embezzlement.

Glandered Horses Stain.

DOUGLAS, W. T., Jan. 27.—During the past year 248 glandered horses were killed in Wyoming by orders of the Territorial Veterinarian, and \$15,000 paid to the owners of the same to indemnify them for their loss.

School Boys On Strike.

SHAWANO, Wis., Jan. 30.—The scholars in the high school have struck. They refuse to carry in wood for the fires and demand that a janitor be employed to do the drudgery.

More Trouble for the National Opera.

LANCASTER, Pa., Jan. 27.—The National Opera Company has refused to fill its date here for Feb. 7. There is talk of a suit for breach of contract.

SNOW BOUND RAILROADS.

Cattle Starved in Stalled Trains and Their Frozen Hoofs Drop Off.

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—There is an immense quantity of ice in the harbor, and sailing vessels cannot move without the aid of tugs. From Boston light to the bridges there is no clear water to be seen, excepting in the lanes made by the ferryboats, and they just manage to make their trips. The steamship Haytian Republic, outward bound, had the greatest difficulty in making a passage through the ice field. If the wind should shift to the eastward navigation, even by steam, will be all but impossible.

NEWPORT, Jan. 30.—Yesterday morning was the coldest of the winter, the thermometer registering 6 degrees below zero. The harbor is frozen clear across again, and the Government launches which ply between the city and Fort Adams, the torpedo station and training station are obliged to land at the upper end of the city. New York steamers report seventy-five miles of ice in the Sound, with the prospect of closing unless the weather moderates soon.

ELMIRA, Jan. 30.—The railroads converging here are still having a rough time owing to the continued gales and drifting snow. All trains from the East are about twelve hours late. Conductor McMartin and a crew, who had been frozen in a snow drift at Elmira, on the Elmira, Cortland and Northern Railroad, on Friday, were dug out and rescued yesterday, thus clearing the road. A stock train was brought here which had lain in a drift at Stanley, on the Northern Central, since Thursday. The cattle had not eaten a mouthful all that time, and their frozen hoofs were dropping off. The animals had suffered terribly.

EASTON, Pa., Jan. 30.—The Belvidere road is clear of snow drifts. The Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad had a force on digging out their lost passenger train yesterday and expect to run to-day. The Bangor and Portland Railroad was opened yesterday from Portland, Pa., to Pennsylvania. The Nazareth branch, closed since Tuesday, will be opened to-day. The snowed-up railroad trains arrived at Bangor yesterday afternoon sixty hours late. Over in New Jersey the New York, Susquehanna and Western road is trying to get its snow-filled cuts open so as to run trains to-day. This road has not moved a train at this end for two days.

READING, Jan. 30.—The Reading Railroad Company yesterday had several hundred men out on its branch roads shovelling away snow drifts, and with the assistance of ponderous snow ploughs, the Lebanon Valley, East and West Reading and Columbia Railroads were reopened to passenger and freight traffic. The Schuylkill and Lehigh Railroad is still thoroughly blocked. In the coal regions some efforts have been made at resumption, but it will be several days before the railroads will be in full operation.

THE DON'T WANT KYRLE BELLEVUE

The Cincinnati Heiress Would Not Have Him at Any Rate.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—Miss Harriet E. Coffin, the Cincinnati heiress, who was said to have a liking for Kyrle Bellevue, the actor, passed a quiet day yesterday at Taylor's Hotel, in Jersey City. She didn't leave her room and she received no callers. Her first concern in the morning was to see all the daily papers, and when she read the accounts of herself and her doings, she said to the clerk:

"The idea that I should be in love with Bellevue and want to marry him! It's just the other way, if anything; but I wouldn't marry him if he should get down on his knees and entreat me."

She intimated that she would return to Cincinnati in a short time, where she could escape the dangers of being kidnapped on the ground of insanity.

Failed to Keep His Promises.

PATERSON, Jan. 30.—Operations at the Morning Call office came suddenly to a standstill Saturday afternoon. When time came for business and work, neither reporters nor compositors appeared. When the editor and proprietor, E. B. Haines, arrived he found the place silent and deserted. The strikers claim that promises of increased pay have not been kept. Mr. Haines says that there is no strike, but that he discharged all the hands who are out because his son overheard them concocting the scheme.

She Loses Both Legs.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 28.—Miss Ettie Shattuck, the young school teacher who was so severely frozen in Holt county in the late blizzard, has had both her legs amputated at Seaward and will live. On the night of the storm Miss Shattuck took refuge in a haystack, but was unable to burrow deep enough to prevent her limbs from freezing. After staying in the stack seventy-eight hours she was discovered and rescued.

More Natural Gas in Indiana.

FRANKFORD, Ind., Jan. 27.—Gas was struck on the farm of H. E. Bucken day before yesterday. Saturday the well was sunk deeper, and the flow has more than doubled. The gas is now pouring forth in a tremendous volume. The people of this neighborhood are greatly elated.

They Want Money.

ATOKA, I. T., Jan. 26.—The Choctaw Indians are much exercised over the failure of the Government to pay their claims for abandoned lands in Mississippi and Alabama, amounting to \$1,600,000, half of which amount has been pledged to attorneys.

300,000 Immigrants Last Year.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—A statement sent out to-day by the Bureau of Statistics shows that the number of immigrants coming to the United States in the year 1887 was 300,000, as against 280,000 in 1886.

Independent Colored Men.

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—An independent Republican club of colored men was formed here Saturday night. It is the only club of its sort in the United States.