

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r

CENTRE HALL, PA. THURS, FEB. 9, 1888.

TERMS.—One year, \$1.50, when paid in advance. Those in arrears subject to previous terms.

Let the taxes on whisky and tobacco stand but take them off the poor man's necessities of his food and clothing.

BOY THIEVES IN CHICAGO.

A large number of recent petty robberies in the vicinity of Wentworth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street was explained on Monday night by the discovery of the headquarters of a gang of boy thieves, located under a sidewalk, by two officers who, going to investigate a mysterious light under the sidewalk, found a small entrance to a cave in the ground, and on pursuing the search came to a spacious room guarded by a 13-year-old Jack Sheppard named Nimble Rynes.

OFF FOR A SIX DAYS' WALK.

Start at Midnight of the Walking Match in Madison Square Garden.

New York, Feb. 6.—The six days' walking match, for which preparations have been going forward for some time, began at midnight in the Madison Square Garden with forty-eight starters.

The utmost interest was manifested by the 6,000 spectators. The pens in which the contestants will rest during their weary tramp were the objective points of all at first and the booths afterward.

As the contestants came out to take their positions the immense audience cheered. Campna, otherwise "old sport," was the first to come to the starting point at 11.55. Hart followed immediately and then came the others in a bunch. The start, a good one, was made exactly at midnight.

The first away was Field, followed by Cox, and then came Hughes, Cartwright, Albert, Panchot, Herty, Guerrero, Brodie's unknown, Hart, Sinclair, Elson, Hales, Hoggeman, Strokel, Curran, Dillon, Campna, Tilly, Callahan, Ranhofer, McLaughlin, Solin, Paul, Dufrene, Kessalon, Call, Moore, Hoar, Johnson, Hoagland, Newland, Day, Barrell, Pettilla, Delrica, Lurky, Swank, R. hards, Taylor, Munson, Stolp, Thomas, Stout, Vint, Sullivan, Bird and Connors, who brought up in the rear, making forty-eight all told.

The leaders at the end of the first mile were Albert, Sinclair, Cartwright and Brodie, who passed the starting point in exactly five minutes. The score at the end of the first hour stood as follows:

Cartwright, 8 miles, 6 laps; Guerrero, 8 miles, 6 laps; Golden, 8 miles, 6 laps; Albert and Heggelman, 8 miles, 6 laps each; Hart and Strokel, 5 miles, 2 laps; Connors and Herty, 5 miles; Sinclair, 7 miles, 5 laps; Hughes, 6 miles, 7 laps.

Unable to Reach an Agreement.

BOSTON, Feb. 5.—The cigar manufacturers and their employes have as yet come to no satisfactory terms of settlement. A committee from Union 97 met a similar committee from the manufacturers, for the purpose of arriving if possible at some conclusion agreeable to both parties.

A Church Opened to Dr. Fulton.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6.—The failure of Dr. Justin D. Fulton to secure a hall in which to deliver his lectures against Romanism in this city was the cause of considerable discussion among the Baptist ministers, who indignantly declared that it was an attempt to throttle free speech.

Fullman's New Industry.

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—There are rumors that the Pullman Palace Car Company will in a few weeks begin the construction of an immense plant for the manufacture of locomotives. It is intimated that giant locomotives will now be constructed, capable of hauling from 75 to 100 loaded cars.

Army Orders.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Major William A. Mays, Ordnance Department, has been ordered to inspect certain hospital and medical property at the National Armory, Springfield, Mass., for which Acting Assistant Surgeon S. W. Bowles is responsible.

One-Armed Sluggers Meet.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 5.—Otto Johnson and John Geiger, two one-armed sluggers, fought three rattling rounds with small gloves in Opera House Hall early yesterday morning.

Paralyzed at the Organ.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 6.—While playing the "De Deum" at the morning service in St. Andrew's Church, in Meriden, Sunday, Prof. Henry A. Foster, the organist, was stricken with paralysis.

Mrs. Cleveland Not Present.

BOSTON, Feb. 6.—A service of prayer was held yesterday over the body of Homer F. Harmon which was taken to Houlton, Me., last night for interment.

Arming Postal Clerks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The Post Office Department has resolved to arm, at the expense of the department, all postal clerks west of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Murder at a Soldiers' Home.

BATH, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Thomas Lary and William Lavery, inmates of the Soldiers' Home, came to blows and fought savagely. Lavery receiving injuries from which he died yesterday.

Government Vessels in Collision.

FALMOUTH, Mass., Feb. 5.—The United States vessels Gallatin and Dexter collided yesterday in Wood's Hole Harbor.

Tramps in Winter Quarters.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 6.—There are now 255 tramps confined in the Cumberland county prison.

Four Feet of Snow on a Level.

KENNA, N. H., Feb. 6.—Snow is four feet deep on a level in this section.

WONDERFUL LUCK.

How George Prather and His Brothers Made a Royal Fortune.

There died on a farm near Bear Lake, Crawford County, a few days ago, a horse that in January, 1865, figured prominently in one of the most important operations in the history of oil development in Venango County—an operation by which the owner of the horse and his two brothers, without a dollar of capital, made, according to a Bradford (Pa.) correspondent of the New York Sun, a million dollars apiece.

The horse was known as "the Prather horse," and was formerly the property of the late George Prather, of Meadville. It was nearly twenty-eight years old.

George Prather was one of three brothers—John, George and Abraham—who started a country store in the village of Plumer, Venango County, in 1864. John Prather was married to the daughter of an old farmer named Holmden, who lived on "the Oil Creek" country.

By the middle of November the drill on the United States lease had reached third sand, the sand in which oil had invariably been found along Oil Creek, but no oil was found. The drill was continued, however, to delay the day of failure and to give opportunity for the placing of more of the company's stock with credulous speculators.

The Prather boys had not done any thing with the Holmden farm as late as January, 1865. Then they concluded to push it in the market, as they believed a few weeks more would see the failure of the United States Company's lease.

George Prather was sent East to find a customer for the farm. At Pittsburgh he interested C. B. Duncan, of the firm of Duncan & Kent, in the matter, and the two went on to Philadelphia to dispose of the property.

That was before the days of oil-well "mysteries," and the news of the strike on the Holmden farm soon spread through the region. The farm at once jumped among the millions in value.

John and Abraham Prather were wild. Their brother George was in the East trying to sell the farm, and ignorant of the oil strike, might even have disposed of it for a song. Telegrams were sent to him at Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, but he could not be found.

Pithole creek was then overrun with excited oil speculators, and almost any price was offered for land. The rise of Pithole City had begun.

Long before the crash came at Pithole it was known that the capital of the United States Oil Company was fictitious, and that its venture on the Holmden farm was entirely of the wildcat order, made for the purpose of selling its stock.

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Lowly-Horn Cardinals. The death is announced in Upper Austria of Frederick Ganglebauer, only brother of Cardinal Ganglebauer, Archbishop of Vienna and Primate of the Empire.

Italian Versatility. A sign in front of a store in the city of Bari, on the Adriatic Sea, in Italy, recommends to the public the goods and services to be had from the proprietor.

A Merry New Year!!

Old Father Time, like the Harvester, annually gathers in the crop and 1877 like its predecessors has been stored away for reference only.

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Table of train schedules for Pennsylvania Railroad, Erie Railroad, and other lines, listing destinations and departure times.