

The Centre Reporter.



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THE CENTRE REPORTER.

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The REPORTER was just ten days ahead of Attorney General Kirkpatrick in saying that Judge Metzger was entitled to his commission, and didn't need to have any lawyers to argue the point for us.

If any political party desires a presidential candidate for the next hitch, who is free from factions and has no enemies, then the REPORTER would recommend Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, he has no old scores to settle.

The people of the State will have an opportunity on June 18 to decide whether Pennsylvania shall be "wet" or "dry." The State having been wet for nearly six months, we are inclined to think they will vote "dry" for a change.

We received a copy of the Philad. Times Almanac. It's just what every man needs—handy, full of information that is not found in other publications and reliable on election statistics. The best daily in the state, it naturally gets out the best almanac.

Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Blaine got at outs during the Garfield administration—Mrs. Blaine having snubbed Mrs. Harrison. This is said to be a veto on Blaine's going into the Harrison cabinet. Well, Mrs. Blaine will wear a bigger bus-belt than Mrs. Harrison, and so get even.

Luzerne county has a "Honey Pot"—that would be a sweet place for a fellow to stick his finger. Milfin county has a "Honey Creek"—and that would be a sweet and delicious place for a bath. Texas has a "Honey Grove,"—and that should be a delightful place to loaf in the summer.

Cyclones are for some good too. There is an old lady in Brooklyn who hadn't walked without crutches for ten years. She forgot them when she heard the cyclone coming and has been able to walk as well as anybody ever since. Guess she is able now to get ahead of the next cyclone.

President Cleveland goes on vetoing and opposing special pension bills, just as he did before election. He has signed great numbers since the election, but at the same time has a quick eye to single out the claims of bummers and deserters, and stamp them with his disapproval. One bill vetoed on Friday was disapproved for the reason that the claimant twice deserted his regiment, and that an application to the war department to remove these charges has been denied.

The Pittsburg Post says the fact that Quay, Andrews and others have decided to go to the Western end of the State for the Republican candidate for State treasurer has not discouraged the major and he will not, he says, depend upon the people for the nomination. Should the nomination for State treasurer go to Allegheny, Adjutant General Hastings would have a clean field for the gubernatorial nomination. Hastings is positively a candidate for the place and he has been slated. This arrangement is another Quay effort to bury Magee and his friends.

How can the Philad. Times be so cruel to speak thusly:

Charles Austin—confidential book-keeper, Bussey & McLeod, Troy, N. Y.—gone; ditto \$10,000 company's funds. Splendid fellow—good society—charming wife. Didn't know it was loaded, and sorry now, very, that the thing went off. Speculated some, not much, only enough to get left, which necessitated drawing on firm. Employers much astonished—Mrs. Austin heartbroken. Clear case of an old disease having origin in false pride. Canada.

Professor Thomas H. Huxley has written a strong, clear and characteristic paper on spiritualism says the Press, in which he reaches the conclusion of most sensible men that there is absolutely nothing in the manifestations but skill on one side in making them and an unfortunate readiness on the other side to believe them. The eminent chemist Dr. Huxley waves aside with the statement that eminent men have always been ready to believe the current delusion of the hour, whether mere witchcraft, demonic possession or spiritualism. Dr. Huxley has had the customary experience of clear-headed scientific men who have investigated these phenomena and he adds, what few realize, that scarcely anyone is taught to observe accurately and that "one who has not tried it can not imagine the strain of the mind involved in sitting for an hour or two in a dark room, on the watch for the dodges of a wary 'medium.'"

ADMISSION OF NEW STATES.

There is a strong probability the bill of Mr. Springer, that passed the house on Friday by the decisive vote of 144 to 98, a number of Republicans voting with the Democrats for it, will also pass the senate. It is a fair measure, and will secure the admission of the Territories entitled to Statehood at an earlier day than if action should be postponed until the next congress. An extra session might let in South Dakota a few months earlier, but there would be little difference, as under the Springer bill that State will be admitted to representation in congress in December next, when the regular session convenes. North Dakota will also come in when congress approves the constitution it may adopt.

As to South Dakota, the bill gives it two representatives in congress. An election is provided for on the 5th of November next on the subject of division North and South Dakota voting separately. If both agree to a division—of which there is no doubt—and South Dakota ratifies its constitution of 1885 at the same election, the president may issue his proclamation declaring South Dakota a State in the Union. If either North Dakota or South Dakota shall vote against division, neither of them will have any separate status, and Dakota Territory is to be admitted as a single State. This is really what should be done, but the people out there are in favor of two States, and the Springer bill provides that South Dakota may become a state as soon as the result of the election of November 5 is certified to the president.

Montana is to be admitted upon proclamation, if a majority of the voters at the election on November 5, 1889, shall ratify the constitution of 1884. The Territories of New Mexico and Washington are authorized to elect delegates and hold constitutional conventions and frame and adopt constitutions. They will be admitted when congress passes laws to that effect.

If this bill become a law the probabilities are that North and South Dakota and Montana will be admitted early in 1890, and as to South Dakota and Montana probably in December next. North Dakota, Washington and New Mexico will come in a little later, when their constitutions are ratified by their own people and approved by congress. This will add five States to the sisterhood of '88, and increase the vote of the electoral college from 401 to 417.

WHAT IS CIDER?

In the case of Commonwealth against Reyburg, which was a criminal prosecution against the defendant for selling cider without a liquor license, the supreme court on Monday delivered an opinion reversing the quarter session of Warren county, and sending back for decision by a jury the question whether cider can be fairly included under any one of the four kinds of liquor—malt, brewed, vinous or spirituous—for the sale of which a license is required.

It being admitted neither malt nor brewed it does not call for a license unless it is either vinous or spirituous. The county court held that the prosecution against Reyburg would not lie because cider was not an "intoxicating" liquor, but the supreme court holds this to be erroneous. The question is not is it intoxicating? but, is it vinous or spirituous? And this, the court declares, is not a question for the court, but one of fact for the jury. "In common acceptation," says Judge Williams, by whom the supreme court opinion is delivered, "cider is not understood to be either a vinous or spirituous beverage, and yet, when fermented, it contains a percentage of alcohol sufficient to bring it within the fair meaning of the term 'vinous,' and although not the product of distillation, it may when mixed with spiritous liquor and sold in that condition under the name of cider, be regarded as the spirituous within the meaning of the prohibition. The evidence on the trial was very weak indeed. No skilled person having knowledge of the composition of cider was called, and there was no direct evidence as to whether the liquor sold as cider was vinous or spiritous liquor, but we do not know and can not say, as matter of law, that its character may not be so changed by fermentation as to bring it within the meaning of the term 'vinous.' Of course, an admixture with spirits might render the compound 'spiritous.'"

CHILLING.

Philad. Press: Ice can be produced by artificial processes, but coal can not. The mild winter keeps the coal bills down, and the ice machines may prevent the ice bills next summer from going too high. Be cheerful, and take the weather as it comes.

Cincinnati Enquirer: What a cool thing the ice men will have next summer! What a warm thing the coal men have had this winter! Whatever happens, the poor consumer falls into the soup.

A BANKRUPT LAW DISCOVERED.

A most remarkable recent legal discovery is the sole theme of discussion among the legal fraternity of Pittsburg, the discovery resulting from the failure of George C. Roll, grocer. The proceedings by creditors have been under the provisions of the Attachment law of 1869 amended in 1887 by the State Legislature. Somers & Bros., one of the creditors, retained John W. Echols, late of Athens, Ga., as their counsel. This gentleman made a vigorous search of Pardon's Digest and unearthed the "Domestic Attachment law" of 1836.

Mr. Echols said: "The law of 1836 is really a comprehensive State bankruptcy law. It has been supposed to be obsolete, owing to its supersession by the national bankruptcy law, passed by Congress in 1867. The repeal of the latter, however, in 1878, again put the law of 1836 into force, it never having been repealed. According to its terms the slightest concealment of the person of a debtor, coupled with an evasion of his debts, enables an action to be brought, an attachment to be issued against his entire estate, either real or personal, or against any property deemed to him by anybody with the intent of circumventing his just debts.

"There trustees are to be appointed who have plenary powers. The debtor's house can be broken open, his clothing and trunks searched and his property seized and held awaiting adjudication. The law being designed to place the property with friendly custodians, all assets can be reached at once. Not only this, but no other attachment can be secured against the property, real or personal, held by the trustees under this act.

"There is no creditor's bond called for under the provisions of the act of '36, nor are there any indemnifying damages for the debtor, who places himself within the pale of the law upon the first intimation of an intention to defraud his creditors. If sustained, and I see no reason to doubt that it will be, the act of 1836 will revolutionize the methods of bankrupt practice in this State."

Mr. Echols appeared before Judge Ewing and sprung his discovery upon the legal fraternity. His honor considered the matter three days, finally granting the attachment and appointing Messrs. J. C. Brown, S. J. Fleming and J. D. Glover as trustees of the Roll estate. Judge Ewing's recognition of the points at issue is regarded as very conclusive as to the force and effect of the statute which has so long slumbered in oblivion.

If the republican senate tariff bill should become a law the American people will be required to pay a bounty of one cent a pound to the domestic producers of cane and beet sugar. This is to be a direct gift out of the funds in the United States treasury to the sugar producers and differs from the tariff bounty in that the latter is collected from the consumers by the producers themselves while the direct bounty is collected by the government in taxes of all kinds levied upon consumers of all articles taxed in both the customs and internal revenue laws. This republican dose of bounty was too strong even for the stomach of Senator Quay who refused to swallow it. It might be asked why the producers of cane and beet sugar are to be favored with this bounty and producers of maple sugar left to work out their own sweet salvation? Some of the northern states, notably Pennsylvania and Vermont, produce large quantities of maple sugar, the saccharine quality of which is purer and more delectable in every way than that extracted from the beet. Why then ignore the maple sugar men of Pennsylvania, nay, why tax them in order that a bounty may be paid to the beet sugar men of Kansas and the cane sugar men of Louisiana? The injustice is as glaring as the principle of paying government bounties to favored classes is inconsistent with the genius of republican government.

Besides the "White Caps" who perpetrate violence in some of the Western States, there are bunglers who take that title in this part of the country, says the Sun, and raise terror by their anonymous threats. We hear of them in the rural regions of New York, and of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. These fellows ought to be caught and suppressed as soon as possible. Their conduct is criminal, and renders them liable to punishment. Their attempt at terrorizing cannot be tolerated. The law must be supreme in every community.

If the Germans don't behave themselves in Samoa, in the south Pacific seas, the Americans will spill out their beer for them and then they may wish they had never been born. If Uncle Sam's men of war get out there he'll surely "set 'em up" in a way which will make the German officers wish they had popped off their beer bottles instead of their cannon.

BOUNTIES AND TAXES.

The sugar growers of the country can't compete with the sugar growers of France, Germany and Spain, says the Philad. Times. They encourage the sugar industry, the people pay tariff duties amounting to over \$50,000,000 annually. It is now proposed by the Senate to reduce the tariff tax on sugar and pay a government bounty of one cent a pound to all sugar growers.

The wheat growers of all the older States can't compete with the free and more fertile lands of the far West, and and farms in Pennsylvania are now generally profitless. If bounties should be paid to sugar farmers, why not to wheat, corn and oats farmers? If the government is to become paternal and make every business profitable, regardless of the swift changes of the age, why not give bounties to the farmers of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana?

A few—not fifty in all—propose to Congress that tin now taxed 33 per cent shall be taxed 70 per cent, to enable a few dozen capitalists to make large profits by its measure. Tin is used in every home of the land. It is in the poor man's roof, in his kitchen, in his dinner pail, and is used in the millions of cans which small farmers must have to can their fruits and vegetables; and the proposition is simply to tax the whole country some \$15,000,000 a year to enable a few capitalists to become millionaires and monopolists.

If the government is owned and is to be run solely in the interest of centralized money, why not pay the \$15,000,000 as bounty direct to the tin combine instead of taxing the poorer people of the land? If the many are to be mere tax subjects for the benefit of the few, let the truth on its face, and provide that the government will capitalize and pay bounties to the manufacturers of tin.

It was assumed by the few who profit by monopoly taxes imposed upon the people, that tariff and tax discussion was ended by the late election; but the victors are now discussing it in the Senate and the cloven foot sends a shiver among the people as particular industries are selected to be the recipient of direct government bounties. Let the discussion go on in the Senate. It will go on with the people until there shall be a return to honest protection to the wages of labor and needless taxes are taken from the necessities of life.

Last week in one day five liquor bills were launched on the House, three of which were introduced by members from Allegheny county. One of them is intended as a substitute for the Brooks law, and proposes to grant from the courts the authority to grant licenses and to lodge it in a board of three Excise Commissioners at a salary of \$6,000 a year. Another seeks to transfer the power to grant licenses from the Court of Quarter Sessions to the Court of Common Pleas. Two of them contemplate the abrogation of the provision in the Brooks act requiring the bondsmen of the licensee to reside in the ward or township in which his house is located.

The last of these bills has for its purpose the modification of the Brooks law so that cities outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburg and perhaps Allegheny will not be able to collect a greater license for selling intoxicating drinks than \$300, as the framers of the high license act intended should be paid in cities of the third class. The Brooks bill contemplated that all cities except Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Allegheny should be taxed this amount, but the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the classification in the inter-municipal act unconstitutional, forbade the enactment of a law dividing cities into more than three classes and compelled cities like Harrisburg, Reading and Lancaster to enter the third class, in which the Brooks law says the \$500 license fee must prevail.

LIFE IN THE FROZEN NORTH.

Miss Olof Krar, a native Esquimaux lady and the only one of her race in this country, gave a lecture in Philadelphia in the Academy of the Fine Arts on "Greenland; or, Life in the Frozen North."

She said: "People of this country have very little idea of the life and customs of the people who inhabit the far North. They think we are savages like your Indians. In this they are mistaken. True we have no ministers, doctors, lawyers or government, but there is an air of order in everything. We have our homes and families and love each other."

"When a young man falls in love with a girl and wants to marry her he must be skilful enough to steal his intended away from the paternal home, and if he is caught his life is forfeited. The entire family sleeps in one bed. Sometimes they number a dozen and several skins have to be united in order to cover them all. We never use water. From the time one is born until he dies not a drop of water touches his skin.

IMPORTANT TAX SETTLEMENTS

The Times says: The Auditor General has just made tax settlements against certain corporations in this State which involve the enormous sum of \$5,328,490.55.

This action of the financial department of the State has not been taken hastily or inconsiderately. A vast amount of labor has been given to the subject for two years past by the late Auditor General Norris, the present Auditor General McCamant and Rufus E. Shapely, acting as attorney for the State, and the result is exhibited in the development of claims of unpaid taxes equal in amount to the entire existing debt of the State.

Of course, the tax settlements just made will be resolutely contested in the Courts, and the contest is likely to be carried into the legislative halls; but the settlements are doubly opportune in precipitating both legislative and judicial construction of our crude and contradictory tax laws, and in assuring intelligent legislation on the subject during the present session.

The Philad. Press says petitions are circulating in that city asking the Legislature to pass a law forbidding the sale of cigarettes and tobacco to persons under 16 years of age. It is to be hoped that both Houses at Harrisburg will take the matter into serious consideration and mature and pass a bill dealing effectually with this evil. The physiological effects of the use of tobacco on young children are known only too well. The ease also with which cheap cigarettes and tobacco can be procured by young boys, and even girls is evident to every observer. School teachers protest against their use in vain, and the efforts of parents are rendered abortive by the greed of shopkeepers. A bill on this subject has already been introduced into the New York Legislature, and Pennsylvania should not be behind in dealing with this crying evil.

The amendment is not self-enforcing, and will require a code of laws of a kind happily unknown to the people of Pennsylvania, but familiar to the people of Maine, Vermont, Kansas and Iowa, to give it any practical effect. Otherwise it will have no more force as a prohibition measure than the famous bill against the coast. To pass such a code an extra session of the legislature will be necessary. It is easy to favor submission or prohibition as a sentimental theory, but when it comes to frame the stringent and arbitrary laws necessary to make it a reality we only stand at the threshold of the weighty problem. The trouble will then commence. Should no laws to enforce the amendment be passed before May, 1890, when licenses are issued under the Brooks law, that law will cease to be operative, because it would be in open conflict with the amendment, which sternly prohibits, without reservation or exception, "the manufacture or sale or keeping for sale" of intoxicants. The legislature is granted the power to provide for the sale of liquor "for other purposes than as a beverage," and is required to do so, as well as to enforce the general prohibition at its first session after the adoption of the amendment. In the absence of such laws, devising radical methods, the practical result will be that the Brooks law will lapse as unconstitutional, and the sale of liquor will be free and unrestrained, just as it was in Ohio for years, under somewhat similar conditions.

BIG SETTLEMENTS BY THE STATE.

Settlements made against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, Erie and Western Transportation Company and Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, involving claims of about \$5,000,000, were sent from the Auditor General's Department to the proper officers of the alleged delinquent corporations. The accounts were settled against the companies as a result of the investigations of Rufus E. Shapely, of Philadelphia, employed while the late Colonel A. Wilson Norris was Auditor General. The State debt will soon be wiped out at this rate.

Judge Woods, of Indiana, is strongly pressed for attorney general, as just the man to give law to the incoming administration. Colonel Dudley for attorney general, Mr. Wanamaker for the postal department, Clarkson, of Iowa, for the interior, Platt for the treasury, and Blaine for secretary of state, would accord with the everlasting prophecies.

Senator Betts, on Wednesday, the 9th, introduced a bill in the State Senate, for the election of Assessors throughout the counties of this State for three years. And the next day it was reported in the house by Mr. Wherry, of Cumberland. We hope this measure will pass so as to enable the tax payers to elect in February for three years.

THE PROHIBITORY AMENDMENT.

The house of Representatives yesterday passed the amendment to the constitution prohibiting the sale of alcoholic, vinous and malt liquors as a beverage within the limits of the commonwealth. Doubtless the senate will also pass the amendment, says the Patriot of the 23rd. So far as the action of the legislature is concerned the republican managers have made the matter a party measure. When it shall come before the people of the state for ratification they will hold off their hands, hoping to cheat both the prohibitionists and liquor dealers. In the event of its rejection by the people they will say to the prohibitionist: "We did all we could for your hobby; we submitted it to the people; but the Democrats and a small portion of our party whom we could not control—defeated it at the polls. You see we are innocent of the murder." Should it be adopted they will claim from the prohibitionists their applause and support on the grounds that they made it a party measure and at the same time they will say to the liquor men: "See! the democrats failed you in your time of need. If they had stood by you the republican votes we gave you would have saved you." But the feat of carrying whisky on one shoulder and water on the other so often performed by the republican managers in this state will hardly be successfully executed at the special election for the adoption or rejection of the prohibitory amendment. There are too many rough places in the road over which the load is to be carried.

The prohibitory amendment having been made a party measure in the legislature by the Republican managers must be regarded as a republican party measure at the special election. While many democrats will not vote against it on that account and while some democrats will vote for it because their party has been betrayed time and again at the polls by the republican managers of the Liquor League, many democrats will cast a negative ballot because they are opposed to sumptuary laws and because the experience of the people of states in which prohibition prevails has demonstrated that while drunkenness is quite as prevalent in those states as in others which have a system of license the sanction of law in general has been greatly weakened by the open violation and defiance of the prohibitory statute. Again there are both democrats and republicans who will oppose the amendment because its effect will be to destroy property to the value of many millions of dollars and will effect taxation and the revenue to the serious injury of taxpayers in general. But the apparent morality of the matter is on the side of the prohibitionists and thousands of well meaning persons will support the amendment because they imagine that its adoption will be in the interests of good morals.

From a political point of view it would appear that as the republicans have undertaken to pass this prohibitory job they may as well be permitted to have the whole business to themselves. They would no doubt be glad to have the democrats pull their chestnuts out of the fire for them at the special election, but they may as well understand first as last that they cannot calculate upon anything of that sort. They will be held responsible for the fate of their measure whatever that may be. Men who are democrats from principle will vote according to their principles whether the republican chestnuts burn or not.

PROPOSED REVENUE LEGISLATION.

It is likely that a revenue bill to take the place of the measure which was lost two years ago will shortly be committed to the legislature and it is probable, too, that a great deal of discussion will be occasioned by its introduction.

The ill fated bill of two years ago allowed the counties one half the money derived from the tax on personal property, but the proposed legislation is not so liberal and under its provisions the counties are entitled to but one-third of the personal property revenue.

THE INQUITOUS MONOPOLY TAX BILL.

Having voted that the people shall pay a tax bounty of one cent a pound to all manufacturers of domestic sugar, and a tax of more than that upon all imported sugar, and doubled the tax on every dinner-pail, teapot and tin can, the Republican senators feel rather nervous about the fate of their bill. The Democrats could ask no better issue on which to go to the people than that afforded by this monstrous measure.

The Germans have kicked up a little fuss in the island of Samoa, destroying property belonging to American citizens, bombarding a town, and tore down an American flag. Orders were issued at once from Washington for several American vessels of war to proceed to the scene of the trouble and protect the rights of our citizens and the honor of the country. There is not likely to be a war on account of the fuss.