

THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r

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CENTRE HALL, PA., THURS., MAY 22.

CONGRESSIONAL RESUME.

Laborers of the National Legislators at Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The house continued the consideration of the tariff bill. Mr. Byrum, of Indiana, impugned the fairness of the ways and means committee in receiving evidence and received a sharp reply from Mr. McKinley.

Mr. Teller continued his speech on the silver bill in the senate. Bills were passed appropriating \$80,000 for a public building at York, Pa., and \$8,250 for the heirs of John Howard Payne, due on his salary as consul to Tunis.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The house adopted a resolution providing that the remainder of the tariff bill shall be read by the clerks without interruption, and that when the reading is completed amendments may be offered to any section. At noon on Wednesday next the committee of the whole is to rise and report the bill to the house and voting upon the measure and amendments made in committee of the whole is to begin at once. The reading of the bill was then concluded.

The bill appropriating \$100,000 for a public building at Altoona, Pa., was placed on the senate calendar. In concluding his speech on the silver bill Mr. Teller said some senators might be governed by fear of the executive veto, but he would follow the dictates of his judgment. He believed if every senator would do the same thing they would have a free coinage act.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The house continued the discussion of amendments to the tariff bill. Mr. Henderson, republican, of Iowa, opposed the increased duty on glass chimneys, but his amendment was defeated by 113 to 67. Several amendments offered by Mr. McKinley were adopted.

The silver debate was continued in the senate, the treasury surplus receiving a cold deal of attention. Mr. Ainsworth stated that, contrary to the popular belief, the actual surplus was only about \$5,000,000. Replies on the late Representative McKinley were postponed until Tuesday, May 24.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The house continued consideration of the tariff bill, and Mr. Bayne, of Pennsylvania, renewed the controversy concerning Mr. Campbell, of Pittsburgh, by having read a letter reflecting upon the character of Mr. Byrum, of Indiana. The latter retorted by insinuating that Mr. Bayne was a liar and perjurer. An acrimonious debate ensued and Mr. Byrum was censured before the bar by the speaker.

The senate passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for a statue of Gen. Grant in Washington and a number of other bills of minor importance.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—The expected renewal of Saturday's turbulent scenes in the house was averted by the candid explanation of Mr. Wilson, of West Virginia, and a prompt apology from Mr. Bayne, of Pennsylvania, who stated that he had acted without a full knowledge of the circumstances of the case. The tariff bill was continued and several amendments offered by Mr. McKinley adopted. An amendment to abolish the tobacco tax was defeated.

The silver debate was continued in the senate by Messrs. Dolph, Teller and Mitchell.

Original Packages in Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., May 17.—Ex-Governor Robinson, who has been employed by a syndicate of Holyoke unlicensed liquor dealers to look up the constitutionality of the "original package" law, handed his opinion to his clients. He holds that the selling of liquor in original packages is legal. He says the local authorities may seize the stuff, the lower court convict and an appeal be made to superior court, which will probably sustain the lower court, but when taken to the supreme court there is no questioning that such decisions will be overruled. Acting on this advice ten Holyoke dealers will make a test case.

An Alleged Silver Deal.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Fresh rumors are afloat to the effect that the president has again let an intimation of his position on the silver question go out. The president is reported to have said that he would veto a free coinage bill, and that any silver measure to meet his approval must have been passed by Republican votes. It is reported that a deal has been made between the Republican free coinage senators and Democratic senators who hold the same views on the free silver question, by which the latter will vote for a free coinage bill in return for votes of the Republican senators against a federal election law.

Assaulted by Striking Miners.

LIVINGSTON, Mont., May 20.—Sixteen men who arrived in Livingston and were taken by teams to Cokedale to take the places of striking miners. Scarcely had they begun to alight from the wagons when they were assailed by the strikers. One of the new men was hit on the head with a stone and knocked insensible, but soon recovered. Only one of the strikers was arrested.

Carlisle in Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—John G. Carlisle has returned to Washington from Kentucky, where he drew the senatorial prize. He appeared upon the floor and was showered with congratulations, the Republican members in a body extending their congratulations, which shows how deep is the esteem in which he is held. He expects to take his seat in the senate on Thursday.

Hotel Fire at Atlantic City.

ATLANTIC CITY, May 19.—The Osborne hotel caught fire and was partly consumed at 1 o'clock Sunday morning. The hotel has but recently opened for the summer and is one of the largest in town. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to be incendiary. The insurance is light. There were thirty inmates, but all escaped unharmful. The house will be immediately rebuilt.

Thirty-Six Lives Lost.

BEELIN, May 17.—While crossing the River Oler, near Pafior, Sila, a ferryboat loaded with passengers was suddenly capsized. Before assistance could reach them thirty-six of the unfortunate occupants of the boat were drowned.

Mrs. Leslie Will Not Marry.

NEW YORK, May 19.—Mrs. Frank Leslie, who is now in Paris, cabled a dispatch to Louis H. Cramer, manager of her publications, giving an emphatic denial of the report that she was about to marry the Marquis De Leville.

George Francis Train's Trip.

NEW YORK, May 19.—Among the passengers arriving on the steamship Etruria from Liverpool was George Francis Train, who started at once by special train for Tacoma, to complete his journey around the world.

A DAY OF FUNERALS

Scenes of Mourning in Stricken Ashley.

THE STORY OF THE DISASTER.
Robert Roberts, One of the Companions of the Foolhardy Fire Boss, Tells What Happened in the Mine After the Cave In.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 19.—It was a sad Sunday in and about the borough of Ashley. The terrible calamity at the Jersey mines which, on Thursday last, crushed out the lives of twenty-eight sturdy miners, threw a pall of gloom over the community and plunged hundreds of hearts into the depths of despair. In the funeral processions yesterday no less than twenty stricken widows and seventy orphans were numbered.

Three days ago these same were happy and contented. A long illness had only recently been followed by work, and the Jersey was the only colliery in the vicinity which was ordered to start up. In consequence those employed in that mine were congratulated and envied by thousands of other miners who saw no sign of returning employment for them. The little homes of the twenty-eight men, whose blackened, torn and blistered bodies were brought up from the dark chambers on Friday, took on a brighter appearance.

How It Happened.
Thirty-one men are at work in an upper vein. There are four veins in this colliery, but these thirty-one miners are not more than 100 feet below the surface. They are nearly a mile away from the main slope down which they passed in the morning on their way to work. The vein is large and the chambers roomy. There is no inconvenience in working down there. The big fan at the breaker supplies them with plenty of fresh air, and while outside workmen are compelled to labor with the mercury at 80 and a hot sun pouring down upon them, here in these subterranean vaults the thermometer stands at 70.

Presently the men in the upper lift are startled by frightful echoes that come thundering through the dark, honey-combed galleries of the colliery. Their trained ears tell them what has happened. The earth has dropped somewhere off in the distance, and they know that between them and their means of exit an impassable barrier is placed. It is a moment of supreme alarm. They are hemmed in 100 feet below the surface and with no possible way of getting out. How long before the deadly gases will rush upon and lay them all low in death is the question each man puts to himself.

In Total Darkness.

The moment the drop occurred that made these thirty-one prisoners down in the Jersey, also plunged them in total darkness, for every light was extinguished in an instant, and imagine, if possible, what kind of darkness it was that surrounded these men. Naturally they crept toward each other to counsel together. As the moments passed they felt no inconvenience from the lack of air. This encouraged them. They knew well enough that rescuers would begin at once and their full dinner pails, as well as the recollection of the Sugar Notch rescue of 1879, when a score of men were brought out safe and sound after ten days imprisonment in a colliery there, inspired them with hope.

Roberts, one of the two men who lives to tell the story of that subterranean convention, says that as soon as they became assured that they would not be suffocated, propositions were considered as to whether it would not be advisable to make the attempt to get out by the way of an old opening which Fire Boss Allan, who was among the imprisoned, said was certainly not more than 1,300 or 1,500 feet from where they were.

Exploring the Dungeon.
It was a doubtful suggestion, to say the least, for their movements in the direction of escape must be made in the awful darkness that surrounds them, as each miner knew that it would be court-martialed by the explosion to light a lamp, as after all caves in gas accumulate in great quantities and in places previously considered safe. After a long deliberation Fire Boss Allen could enlist only two men, Robert Roberts and Anthony Frame, to follow his lead and take the chances. With a good-by to those who declined to go, the three started upon their dismal and doubtful journey. They sought the gangway and slowly followed it circuitous windings. Every now and then they halted back to those left behind who replied with encouragement in shouts.

After a while, however, they reached a point where no answering torch could be exchanged. For two long hours the three men worked their way toward the old opening which Allan had reference to. At last they came to a point in the gangway which marked the foot of a steep decline. It had a pitch of thirty degrees and was over 200 feet long. Here Allan became discouraged at the surrounding darkness. The steep was slippery and uncertain. By the aid of a light it could easily be surmounted, and once at the top they were within 800 feet of the old opening and the surface. It was worth the venture, he thought, to tempt fate by lighting his lamp. His companions begged him not to do so, but to quiet their fears he assured them there was no possible danger, and the lamp was lighted.

The Explosion.
Unhappy inspiration! Like the roar of a 10,000 cannons was the awful detonation that followed. A vast amount of gas was ignited by that foolhardy act of one who should have none better. The fire boss and his two companions were knocked to the ground senseless, but not dead. But like a shot from a cannon the burning gas flew onward toward the little group of twenty-eight, who were huddled together, waiting and hoping with patience the music of the pick overhead, which should tell them that rescue was near.

In the twinkling of an eye they were transformed into torn, bleeding and blackened corpses. Loaded carts that stood on the gangway track near them were shivered to atoms and the mules attached to them roasted alive. It was a terrible sight to look upon when, later on, these mangled remnants of men were lifted out of the mine and borne away to the improvised morgue at Ashley.

Crushed by Falling Coal.

MINERSVILLE, Pa., May 17.—Martin Brennan, of Heckscherville, was killed at Herbine colliery, near this place, by a fall of a coal.

PHILADELPHIA TO BETHLEHEM

The Lehigh Valley Prospecting for a New Road.

PHILADELPHIA, May 20.—The Lehigh Valley railroad has not abandoned its intention of building a line from Philadelphia to Bethlehem, although the project has not yet assumed definite shape. Surveyors have been at work at various points along the line for some time, and considerable progress has been made. The final location of the line has not yet been decided upon, although the surveyors have made numerous different surveys.

It is said that the Lehigh Valley people are willing to lay the northeast branch of the Reading from that company. The extension of the northeast branch to New Hope is being pushed, and will probably be finished in September. The Lehigh Valley surveyors have recently been at work between Ashbourne and Cheltenham, in Montgomery county, near the line of the recently projected Ashbourne, Cheltenham and Philadelphia railroad. The survey has not interfered with the Ashbourne, Cheltenham and Philadelphia railroad, but runs close to it at some points.

Another Gas Explosion.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 19.—A violent explosion of gas occurred at the Empire colliery, of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal company, at Georgetown, at 4 o'clock Saturday evening. It happened in a portion of the mine known as No. 5 slope.

So far as known only two men were killed—Owen Evans and Thomas Burke. They were what is known as brattice men, their work being to build and repair the wooden partition that guides the air currents. How the explosion was caused cannot be learned, as it fired the timbers, which are now burning fiercely.

The Convocation of Chester.

WEST CHESTER, May 20.—The annual meeting of the convocation of Chester is in session in Holy Trinity church here, all the Protestant Episcopal churches in the district being represented by ministerial and lay delegates. The convocation is being presided over by the dean, Rev. John Bolton, of West Chester. The election of officers took place with the following result: Delegate to the board of missions, Rowland Evans, of Lower Merion; treasurer, James C. Sellers, Esq., of West Chester; committee on appropriations, R. Francis Wood, Benjamin Miller, A. B. Conger and Henry Brown.

First District Moravian Synod.

BETHLEHEM, Pa., May 20.—The Moravian synod of the first district met in the Moravian church here. It is composed of nine churches and six home missions. The names of the churches and the number of communicants in each are as follows: Bethlehem, 1,431; Brooklyn, 107; Easton, 32; Emmaus, 257; Hopedale, 159; Nazareth, 325; New Dorp and Castleton Corners, 215; Schoneck, 253; Utric, 238; Coopersburg, 46; Coveville, 12; Edgewater, 18; Elizabeth, N. J., 117; New York city (German), 138; South Bethlehem, 174.

The Philadelphia Carpenters.

PHILADELPHIA, May 20.—There is but little apparent change in the situation of the striking carpenters. The second strike benefits will be paid by the Brotherhood on Wednesday. The members of the organization who are at work are assessed the extra pay they are receiving toward the support of their less fortunate brethren. News Agent Charles Thompson said that the amount thus realized is almost sufficient to pay the entire strike benefits, as there are fully 1,400 men now working at the advanced rate.

Two Conductors Killed.

WILKESBARRE, May 19.—Lloyd Traub, a conductor on the Lehigh Valley railroad, was killed at Fairview station by passenger train No. 12. He came out of the telegraph office, stepped in front of the train and was struck on the head and instantly killed. Conductor Stackhouse was killed at the same station two days ago, exchanged runs with Traub recently and now both lie dead at their homes in Hazleton. Both were young men not over 25 years of age.

Looks Bad for Policy Holders.

HARRISBURG, May 20.—At last the report of Examiner Tompkins, who went through the books of the defunct American Life Insurance company, has been made public. It came in a big bulky envelope to Commissioner Forster, and as he read it he remarked that it looked bad for the policy holders. He does not think many of the securities are worth anything, but is of opinion that they may get 50 per cent.

Slinging Almost Penniless.

NORTHSTOWN, Pa., May 20.—The deed of assignment by which Willis C. F. Slinging transferred all of his property to the Montgomery Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit company, to cover the amount of his borrowings from that institution, was placed on record. It is sweeping in its terms and leaves the ex-secreting treasurer with practically nothing.

Richard Vaux's Walk Over.

PHILADELPHIA, May 20.—In the special election today in the Third congressional district for a successor to the late Samuel J. Randall, the Democratic candidate, ex-Mayor Richard Vaux, has a complete walk over, as the Republicans have not nominated a candidate in opposition.

Mangled by a Train.

ASHLAND, Pa., May 20.—John Tobin, aged 50 years, of Locust Gap, was instantly killed on the railroad near this place. He attempted to get out of the way of an approaching train and stepped in front of an engine that was rounding the curve. His body was badly mangled.

Shot By His Chum.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., May 19.—At Summer Hill, F. E. Decker fatally shot Bert Rees. Both men came from Elmira, N. Y., and said they were college students on a vacation. Rees has a father, wife and child in Elmira, and he sent a telegram to his father. Rees said that Decker shot him intentionally.

Harrisburg Goes Thirsty.

HARRISBURG, May 19.—The high pressure engine of the city water works burst the cylinder head and the engine was so seriously damaged that a month will be required to repair it. Meanwhile the city will have to depend upon the low pressure engine, which pumps less water per day than is used.

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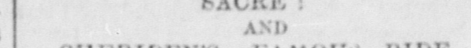
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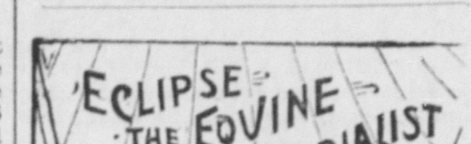
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