



## THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, -- EDITOR

About a quarter of the population of Pittsburg are suffering from the grip.

The Reporter gave a correct opinion when it stated last week there would be no war with Italy.

Italy can't afford to go to war with the United States, as that would interfere with her chief occupation as organ grinder.

Let the members of the legislature take fair notice that the toiling masses insist upon a fair equalization of taxes. No excuse for non-performance of duty in this regard.

There has been no further disturbance in the coke regions, nor is there likely to be. The presence of the troops will have a restraining influence upon the strikers and it is hoped and believed there will be no more bloodshed.

Chauncy Depew at New York says: Italy cannot fight twenty days. She has a big navy and nothing to run it with. The people are overburdened with taxation and are miserable. Italy's credit with money lenders is poor.

Crawford county is "in the hole" to the extent of \$48,819 by the Delamater failure. According to the Auditor's ex-Treasurer Miller owes the state \$9,497 making a shortage of \$58,416 in all. His only bondsmen are the Delamaters who are bankrupt.

A merchant in Syracuse offered a young woman 20 yards of silk for a dress if she would saw half a cord of wood in front of his store. She borrowed a saw cut on her hands and went through it in just three hours, and the admiring crowd bought her a \$12 hat to go with the dress.

If Italy sent a fleet across the sea to bombard New Orleans, it would only be necessary for our authorities to put a big stock of had organs on the shore of the river below the Crescent City which would tempt every Italian, from the admiral down, to desert, and fasten on to an organ, and tramp over the country grinding Yankee Doodle and Hail Columbia, for pennies.

The New Hampshire house of representatives has passed an Australian ballot bill by a large majority, and it now goes to the senate for action. Its advocates confidently expect that it will pass that body and receive the signature of the governor. The measure is modeled after the Massachusetts law, as is the Maine law recently passed, and if adopted it will give the State one of the best and most effective ballot laws in the country. New Hampshire is the only New England State without an Australian ballot law, and unless current signs fail Pennsylvania will soon be the only Northern State without an effective law of this kind.

The excitement over the Italian affair has almost completely subsided and it was not the topic of sufficient live interest to engage the attention in fashionable drawing rooms to-day. Secretary Blaine is not yet disposed to make public anything throwing additional light on the situation, and unless there should be, contrary to all expectations, another bomb shell as sudden and startling as the recall of Baron Fava it is probable that the Italian engagement will not again be the subject of all engrossing public interest and that it will take the usual tedious course of diplomacy.

The Reporter said just two weeks ago there would be no war with Italy as Uncle Sam was not scorable.

The information comes from the coke region that Mr. Frick, owner of the works where the strike is in progress, is indignant and blames the trouble on the labor leaders. Mr. Frick has no right to be indignant. The people of Pennsylvania are the ones who should be indignant over the fact that the state is being put to a heavy expense in its effort to quell a disturbance which is the result of the policy adopted by Mr. Frick and others in encouraging the immigration of the pauper labor of Europe and employing them to take the places of American workmen. The situation in which Mr. Frick finds himself was brought about by his own acts and the people of the state have a right to condemn the practice Mr. Frick and other corporations have adopted in flooding the coal and coke regions with the scum of Europe who are too ignorant to understand the difference between liberty and license. And now Mr. Frick demands that the state shall protect his property from the danger of destruction at the hands of the slaves who were brought to American at the desire of such operators as Mr. Frick.

## THE TAX BILL.

How It Appears Under an Expert's Severe Analysis

The Philad. Record, of which Gov. Pattison is a stock holder, and which is his organ, speaks as follows of the new taxbill; the article deserves the careful attention of the reader:

The Record published a criticism of the pending tax bill by Mr. Rufus E. Shapley who has had experience in drafting revenue bills and is an authority on the subject of tax legislation. In his analysis of the bill, Shapley says: "Should this measure become a law and be upheld by the courts, I think even its strongest advocates will be forced to admit that it will be the cause of more perjury, persecution, annoyance, inequality of taxation, and favoritism by assessors than have ever before resulted from any similar law."

This bill leaves the State taxes just as they are, but requires, not only real estate, but also every conceivable kind of personal property to pay taxes for local purposes. In other words, you must return and pay tax on your store and everything in it including merchandise on the shelves, book accounts, and office furniture; the raw material which you have on hand, as well as the goods you have manufactured and hold for sale; your safe and everything in it; the contents of your box in the safe deposit company, and your balance in bank, if it draws 2 per cent. interest; your stable and its contents, including horses, carriages, harness, and feed; your house and its contents, from the ton of coal, or load of wood, or bushel of potatoes in the cellar, or the old trunk or cradle in the garret, including every picture and article of household and kitchen furniture, every musical instrument from a grand piano to a mouth-organ, and, if I read the bill correctly as it stands, even your own and your wife's and children's wearing apparel and jewelry, and also your tools of trade, and upon everything of this kind in excess of \$300, you must pay any rate of tax which may be imposed by the local authorities.

"You are not required to swear to this return; but in order to prevent mistakes, there are two provisions of the bill that will effectually cure the defective memories of honest people, who have no political pull with the local assessors, and they are these: First, if the assessor 'shall be of opinion' than you have not made a satisfactory return to all his inquisitorial interrogatories, 'he shall examine such taxable person under oath as to the numbers, amounts and quantities of the property he is required to list, and if you refuse to answer, or if your answers are not satisfactory, he may list the property of such person according to his best judgment and information,' and having done so, the Board of Revision or County Commissioners may examine any witnesses who may volunteer to appear against you, or whom they may choose to send for, and, after correcting the return to their satisfaction, they are required to add fifty per centum thereto. Secondly, the bill seeks to make every one of your neighbors a spy and informer on you, for it requires a printed copy of all these returns and estimated appraisements to be delivered to every taxable person in the ward, so that he may know exactly what you have returned, and may inform against you, if prompted by envy, malice or self interest to do so."

"Then the assessor, not yourself fixes the value of every article of real and personal property thus returned or estimated, at the price or value for which the same would sell if each piece or parcel the same were sold singly and separately at a bona fide sale after full public notice."

"If you fail or forget to pay this additional 2 mills tax on your bonds, mortgages, notes or book accounts, you cannot collect either the interest or principal due you."

"If your neighbor should make complaint to the assessors that you have forgotten to return certain property, and the assessor should wilfully neglect to do his duty, he is liable to fine both and imprisonment."

## The Grangers' Revenue Bill.

From the Wilkesbarre Record.

The present bill taxes almost everything a man owns, and besides compels him under oath to state every penny he receives from his trade, profession and investments, also ever debt he may owe big or little. This information is then used in the public prints, for upon it is based his assessment and valuation.

The reason why the bill passed the House by so large a majority is because the members were afraid to vote against it for fear of offending the Grangers, who seem to be all powerful at the Capitol this session. But the Senate is expected to tackle the obnoxious measure with a modicum of courage and to amend it in many important particulars. A citizen's private affairs do not belong to the public, and any attempt to pry into them will not be tolerated by the good sense of the people.

## Fence Law.

One of the Reporter's granger friends having recently requested us to print the fence law as now in force, we gather up the following which may be cut out and pasted in a book for convenient reference:

By the common law no fences are required, only such as are needed to restrain stock from running at large. Numerous Acts of Assembly have been passed on the subject of fences. The first was the Act of 1700, which required "all corn fields and grounds kept for enclosures to be fenced." Parts of this Act were repealed many years since, but the part requiring fences to be maintained, was in force until the 4th day of April, 1889, when it was repealed. The Act of 1784, passed for Northumberland and other counties, when these counties composed the large part of the rural portion of the State, prescribed more particularly the kind of fences required, and provided for the appointment of viewers. As the territory comprising Centre county was in Northumberland county, and this law was probably in force here, but the Supreme Court has set this matter to rest by holding in the case of Stewart vs. Benninger, that the Act of 1802 repealed the Act of 1784, by its title, without mentioning the county of Northumberland.

There is, therefore, no law in this State requiring fences except the common law, which requires every farmer to make such enclosures as will secure his own domestic animals. The law of division fences is the same as heretofore—each adjoining owner of improved land when they desire to use it, are required to keep up half the division fence. The Act of 1805, relating to hogs, is still in force, and it is unlawful to permit them to run at large without rings and yokes, and when so permitted, they may be killed or impounded, and one half of their value forfeited. There seems to be no law, prohibiting horses, cattle and sheep from running at large, while it may be trespass for cattle to rove and pasture on unenclosed woodland, yet it has been held that no action can be maintained for the reason that the damages are unascertainable. Since the repeal of all the other fence laws, the common law is in full force, and each farmer must secure his own stock, or be subject to pay all damages they may do to their neighbor's fields.

A new scheme to get promissory notes out of farmers has just come to light in Berks county, and appears to have been extensively worked. The farmers are approached with a proposition to take shares in a co-operative company for the purchase of a stallion of gilt edged pedigree, the object being to improve the horse stock of the neighborhood. The animal was usually represented to be worth \$2,500 or \$2,800.

Each farmer was to "chip in" \$100 and sign an agreement, and after the full number of names had been secured the horse was to be delivered and notes taken for the purchase money. A number of these partnerships have been formed in Berks county and quite a lot of notes harvested. These notes, have, as usual, found their way into the hands of third parties, or "innocent holders." The makers of the notes now allege that they have been taken in, that the horses are of very ordinary stock, and the whole scheme is impracticable. A number of lawyers have been retained, with view of resisting payments of the notes.

This is only a cousin of the hay-fork and oat swindles of the past, by which farmers were swindled out of many thousands.

## Many Immigrants Land.

During the three months just ended of the present year 12,319 Italians were landed at the Barge Office. With the exception of the immigrants from the Austrian Empire, who numbered 13,689, this is the largest number of immigrants of any nationality ever landed in the same time. The total immigration was 82,219. Of these 11,886 was cabin and 70,333 as steerage passengers. Germans and Alsatians numbered 11,672; Russians Poles and Fins, 11,664; English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, 7,572; Swedes, Norwegians and Danes 6,670; other nationalities made up the balance.

The English, Irish, German and French immigrants were all the better class and an improvement over those who have come here in past years. The Italians, Russians and Poles are nearly all of the lower class.

It is estimated that during the year the record of immigration will exceed 500,000. This will be far in excess of any year of which a record has been kept.

Mrs. Nicely, the mother of the two boys hanged at Somerset for the murder of farmer Ungerer, is a raving maniac and her physician fears she will never regain her senses. The bodies of the murderers were taken to the old home-stand and will be buried on the farm.

## Taxation.

The question of taxation is now before the legislature. The farming community and masses in general look for a measure that will ease the burdens unjustly resting on them.

The farmer should have every possible relief consistent with justice.

The millionaires do not bear their share of the burden compared with their amassed wealth, and these can best afford to pay more into the treasury and feel it least.

This is the desired point to reach.

Whatever may be crude and odd about the tax bill now up should be lopped off and not be used as an excuse to let the equalization of the tax burden go over board. Let the measure be carefully studied, and put in language that leaves no quibble. There are sections in the bill that will not suit the farmer, or the mechanic if applied according to the language of the bill. Let this be guarded against, so as to leave no excuse for defeating a just system of taxation.

Something must be done—something can be done—to lessen taxation for the farmer and reach the half taxed monopolist.

Let our law makers, at Harrisburg, give heed to the demands of the toiling masses to be relieved of unjust taxation.

Michigan is likely to adopt a new method in choosing presidential electors. A bill that has already passed the house and is next to certain to pass the senate providing for the election of a presidential elector by popular vote in each congressional district, leaving only two to be elected by the State at large. This would divide the electoral vote of Michigan at all times, and probably give the Democrats a majority in 1892. A measure of the same kind is pending in the Ohio legislature. Under the constitution each State may adopt its own method of choosing presidential electors. Several States chose their electors by the legislature in olden times, and South Carolina continued it until the late civil war.

Ex-Governor St. John of Kansas thinks the Farmers' Alliance "is an organized protest against the robbery of the great body of people by the liquor traffic of monopolists, encouraged and protected by such infamous legislation as the McKinley bill. The whole system is wrong in principle, because it imposes its burdens upon what we possess, thus asking the poor to contribute as much to the support of the government as the rich." "The reduction of wages of the laboring classes has been more general during the last five months than during any five months for the past ten years. The only honest way to support a government is by levying the burden upon the taxable wealth of the country." St. John was a "crank" on the liquor question, but his view on the tariff are not those of an ignoramus by any means.

## He Went Too Far.

From the New York World.

When the Italian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs says to the American Minister: "We have nothing to do with your Constitution," he spoke wisely. When he added: "If it is found wanting you must mend it," he was guilty of an impertinence. It is not for any foreign government to dictate to the United States in this matter. Italy has a right, under the treaty of 1871, to demand that the United States shall extend to Italians resident here the protection we give to our own citizens, no more and no less. That we have given and give. Until we fail in this Italy can have no just cause of complaint.

## Merit Wins.

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never handled remedies that sell as well, or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merit J. D. Murray Druggist.

We would call attention to the advertisement in this paper of W. & T. Smith, proprietors of the well and favorably known Geneva nursery. This celebrated nursery has been established 50 years, and produces the finest trees and plants. The firm are reliable in every sense of the word, and being desirous of establishing agencies, in this and adjoining sections, those desirous of obtaining a good permanent position, would do well to write to W. & T. Smith, Geneva, N. Y. Steg.

Italy has drawn in her horns, and instead of the music of canons we will have the organ-grinder and his monkey as heretofore.

## America Not Frightened.

The navy department people do not look for the Italian cruisers at once. They know the Italian navy is in the Mediterranean and none of the great Italian cruisers have coaling capacity to enable them to reach New York or any other United States port with fuel enough left to allow them to steam about. While collecting indemnity of ten or fifteen millions, or as much as they choose to make it, for the New Orleans executions.

But naval officers say that it is no farther from the United States to Italy than from Italy to the United States, and that sailing is about as good one way as the other. Then Italy has as many commercial vessels afloat as the United States, and more of them engaged in foreign commerce than the United States.

## The Senate.

In the senate Wednesday morning Mr. Williamson, of Huntington, introduced a judicial apportionment bill. It contemplates the following changes in the existing apportionment:

Dauphin and Lebanon are to constitute a district until January, 1893, when Lebanon is to have a judge, and Dauphin two; Huntington, Mifflin and Snyder a district; Union is attached to Northumberland; Fulton, Somerset and Bedford a district; Adams, after expiration of the present judges' term, is to be attached to York, with two judges; Cameron and Potter and Elk and Clinton are made separate districts, and the following counties are each made districts: Centre, McKean, Jefferson, Clarion and Warren. Allegheny is given an additional court of three judges. No changes are made in Philadelphia.

From North Carolina: During the past three months there has not been more than ten days of fair weather, and the ground was not dry enough to admit plowing for more than six days. The farmers were never so far behind with their preparation for the current year's crop. Very little plowing has been done and no spring oats have been sowed. Cotton planting usually commences the middle of this month if the weather is warm and favorable. The splendid crop of last year has made the farmers enthusiastic and, in so far as they have been able, they have made preparations for an immense crop this year.

The peaches and pears are nearly in full bloom and have not yet been hurt. But if there should come a heavy frost the blooms and buds, and the young peaches and pears would all be killed. The apples are backward, but there is every prospect of a fall crop of this delicious fruit.

Secretary Blaine and the daily papers are bringing up the McClure murder, by Italians, in Luzerne county, and the refusal of Italy to extradite them, as an offset to the demands of Italy in consequence of the New Orleans lynching. The CENTRE REPORTER was three weeks ahead of all these in calling attention to the conduct of Italy. We made reference to it a few days after the New Orleans affair, as our files will show. If Blaine had read the REPORTER sooner he could have given Italy a black eye three weeks earlier.

## Arbor Day.

Governor Pattison has named the 10th of April, and Friday, May 1, as Arbor days in this state, leaving it to the discretion or convenience of the various sections of the Commonwealth to observe either day. In his proclamation he recommends that the day be observed in the schools with fitting ceremonies to impress upon the mind of children the necessity of preserving the trees and the utility and beauty of flower twig and shrub.

## Only Three.

There are three things the legislature should do, and then go home:

1. Pass a fair and just law to equalize taxation.
2. Pass a sensible road law to give us better roads, a law that will accomplish more for the money spent than heretofore.
3. Abolish the shameful Legislative Record.

## Ate Laurel.

Recently a Mr. Long, of Rebersburg, while driving a large flock of sheep through the narrows at the lower end of the valley, a number of them ate the leaves from the laurel bushes which lined the roadside, and twenty-nine died from the effects of the poisonous leaves.

## New Firm.

On Monday, Booser Bros. meat market was purchased from them by our new townsman, Mr. W. H. Rankle, by whom it will hereafter be conducted. He will not remove it from its present location. Success to you Billy.

Give the people a road law that will ensure roads fit to be rode over.

## Additional Locals.

—Miss Belle Welch, of Freeport, Ill., is the guest of Mrs. Flora Bairfoot.

—Before the remains of the Nicely boys were interred Sunday, the plates on which were engraved "At Rest," and the handles removed from the coffins by the family to be kept as mementos.

—The select schools will open on Monday next for a ten weeks' term. Prof. Rothrock and Miss Maggie Hanna will have charge of them, and from their success the past term, we can expect a large attendance.

—Last Monday evening two of Centre Hall's young men, took their departure for the west, they were Ammon Moyer, who intends locating at Amboy, Ill., and Charles Krumbine, who goes to Chicago, where he will follow the trade of painting. Success to them.

—The Mifflinburg Telegraph of 3, says. On Tuesday last, while taking dinner with the family of Mr. Joseph Goshall, this place, Mr. Thomas Dreisbach suddenly fell from his chair and in a few moments was a corpse. Cause of death supposed to be heart failure.

—Our informant, last week was in error, in stating that Charles Long, the Spring Mills merchant, had moved to State College, where he opened a new store. Mr. Long remains at his Spring Mills store while Jim Condo goes to the College as manager of the store there.

—The pickpockets were on hand at Somerset last week mingling with the large crowd drawn there by the execution of the two Nicely boys. One old farmer lost \$150, and a number of others lost smaller sums. Several watches were also secured by the visitors.

—The Republicans of Union county have made the following nominations at their recent convention: President Judge Rufus C. Elder, of Mifflin county; Associate Judge, Jackson Gellinger; District Attorney, Jas. A. Rohback, of Mifflinburg; Sheriff, W. W. Brown, of White Deer; Jury Commissioner, Kiram Klinger.

—The New York Sun tells its readers. If you cannot sleep the probability is that it is because your stomach is empty. Get up and eat a cracker or two and drink a glass of milk and go back to bed again; then you will sleep. The rule with all the animal kingdom is to sleep on a full stomach. Man has not yet ceased to be an animal. This is the opposite of the old theory, by which we were told that sleep was to be had by retiring with an empty gizzard.

—A series of extensive robberies have been accidentally brought to light at Altoona. Several parties would appear at a grocery store and represent themselves as employees of another grocer, who having exhausted his stock of flour, wanted to borrow several barrels for a short time. The goods were given in every case and no inquiries made. It has been found that a great many firms were duped, and the amount stolen is no doubt quite large. The thieves have left the city for parts unknown.

—Notes from the east end of Miles township:

Mud and bad roads prevail. Crops look promising.

Cyrus Zeigler lost a fine colt a few days ago.

D. W. Corman is happy because it is a little girl come to stay.

J. E. Spangler moved on his father's farm; D. W. Corman moved on the farm vacated by Spangler, recently bought by James Corman; J. R. Wolf moved from Rebersburg to this place, into his own home.

A Mr. Greninger, of Creamerville, moved to the East end of the valley on Tuesday; William Hauszeman moved to Sugar Valley.

## Death of Phineas T. Barnum.

The great showman, P. T. Barnum, passed away at 6:22 o'clock on Tuesday evening at his home Bridgeport Conn., in the presence of his grief stricken family. During the period of Mr. Barnum's invalidism and confinement to the house, which began twenty-one weeks ago last Friday, there have been frequent fluctuations in his condition, from each of which he rallied, although in each instance with slightly lowered vitality.

"Do you know why so many people get deaf as they grow older?" said a doctor. "It is because they sleep with their mouths open. Any man or woman who does this persistently for years will finally grow deaf. But that is not the only disadvantage of so sleeping. It is the cause of a score of affections of the throat and lungs, not to speak of snoring, which unfit us any one for human society. But the subject of improper breathing is wide. Not one person in a hundred draws and expels the breath in the natural, healthy way."

## Clinton Co.

The Sugar Valley Journal says: John Wolf, the oldest citizen in Logan township, who lived alone in an old log house near Logan Mills, was found dead in bed Sunday morning; aged 91 years.