

The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXV.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1892.

NO. 47.

BACK AND FORTH

SO SWINGS THE EXTRA SESSION PENDULUM.

Extra Session Sentiment About Evenly Divided. The Civil Service Law Inefficient.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The extra session pendulum swings back and forth from day to day. Last week for a time it seemed that the sentiment in favor of an immediate extra session was overwhelming among prominent democrats, as for several days about nine out of every ten Senators and Representatives that arrived and were willing to express a decided opinion were in favor of an extra session at the earliest possible moment. Then there was a change the other way, and about the same percentage of arrivals opposed an early extra session, although many of these opponents of an early extra session think it would be an advantageous saving of time to call an extra session about September or October. If a poll of all the democratic Senators and Representatives now in Washington were taken on the question of an early extra session, it is extremely doubtful which side would get a majority, so evenly divided has the sentiment become.

Hon. Chauncey F. Black, of Pennsylvania, President of the National Association of democratic clubs, is here to confer with Secretary Gardner as to the association's future work, particularly that relating to the campaign of 1896, which he says is already commenced. Mr. Black called attention to the manner in which the Walker tariff of 1846, which was one of the most satisfactory the country ever had, was prepared, and asked a good many democrats if the next democratic tariff could not be better prepared in that way than in any other. He was surprised to find that very few people remembered, if they ever knew, how the Walker tariff bill was prepared. It was prepared during a recess of Congress by Robert J. Walker, President Polk's Secretary of the Treasury, and when Congress met in regular session it was substantially as prepared enacted into a law and brought credit and honor both to its author and to the democratic party. If that plan succeeded so well then, why not try it again, by letting the democratic Secretary of the Treasury to be selected by Mr. Cleveland prepare a tariff bill to be submitted to Congress when it meets? is now being asked on all sides. Ordinarily the officials of the Treasury Department who have to deal with importations are better posted on tariff matters than outsiders, even among those who have devoted much time and study to the complicated system, and are consequently better prepared to arrange the details of a tariff schedule, but it must not be forgotten that nearly or quite all of the tariff experts now in the employ of the Treasury are hide-bound protectionists, and that it might not be altogether safe to trust them with the work of making a new tariff bill on reform lines.

The relations of the Comptroller of the currency with the National banks are so close that when a Comptroller retires from office he usually enters the employ of a National bank, but all the same much surprise was caused when the annual report of the present Comptroller was made public and it was seen that he had embodied therein an argument against the establishment of State banks with authority to issue currency. It is regarded as nearly akin to insolence for a republican official thus to attempt to tell the democratic Congress that it should not carry out a plank of its National platform, which the country has just endorsed.

General Rosecrans, Register of the Treasury, and about the only democrat now holding a prominent position under the government, struck the civil service law a knock down blow by stating in his annual report that the competitive examinations held thereunder, were practically of no use in determining the competency of a clerk. Not that this statement was new or surprising but that it was made by a big official. It has been fashionable among officials for several administrations to bow down to this civil service mumbo-jumbo, and it is refreshing to find one that will speak what so many of them think.

The question of immigration legislation at the coming session of Congress is being agitated, and if the joint committee which has been investigating the subject shall in their report, which will soon be ready, make any practical recommendations, it is altogether probable that they will be embodied in legislation. Most democrats agree with the National platform, that industrious and worthy foreigners should be free to come to us, and all stand ready to vote to prohibit the coming of the unworthy.

Whether it is because the newspapers got the news first or because they really think there is nothing in it I

cannot say, but anyway the State Department people poolpooh the story about the French agent who controls the Panama railroad having violated the Monroe Doctrine by discriminating against American shippers over that road.

Senator Kenna of West Virginia, is dangerously ill. He has been sick for several weeks but a few days ago it was thought the crisis had passed, and that he was on the road to recovery, but Saturday he had a relapse and today the worst is feared. He has pleurisy and heart trouble.

WILL NOT PLEASE ATTORNEYS.

A Rule in the Somerset Court Debars Non-Resident Practitioners.

A rule has been made in the Somerset county court which prohibits any attorney not a resident of Somerset county from presenting a petition in the courts of that county, beginning an action, entering a note, filing a claim, or in any way transacting business directly with the Somerset county courts. Non-resident attorneys who have any business to do with the Somerset county courts must do it through members of the Somerset county bar residing in the county.

Whew! these lawyers are holding their noses high. If the REPORTER understands anything this action of the Somerset lawyers is not only selfish and rude, but it is uncivil and unconstitutional. Outside lawyers have just as good a right to do business in Somerset, as any other business man has to go there and attend to his business.

Soon a Four Track Road.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company has just given out the contracts for increasing the number of tracks on the division between Harrisburg and Altoona. This work is to be completed not later than the 15th of February, and everything is to be in running order by the 15th of March.

Chief Engineer Brown and his assistants, of the Pennsylvania railroad company, have during the last year, been making a number of surveys along the line of this road between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. A number of sharp curves have been taken out and wherever it has been feasible the number of tracks have been increased so that when the above work has been completed the road will be a four track one from Jersey City to Pittsburg.

Along the line of the New York division the company is now busily engaged in laying the pneumatic system of automatic interlining signals. The power house is now being built at Homlesburg Junction, and a like one will be built close to the tracks of the main line division in Philadelphia. Besides this the company is also increasing the number of tracks from four to five and in some places six are now laid and ready for business.

Hints in Season.

Persons fond of breeding trouble for others, should stop to consider that there are few games that two cannot play at.

It often happens that a dog without teeth barks the most.

No one can have joy today who is worrying about tomorrow.

It doesn't pay to build any kind of a house on a poor foundation.

Nothing keeps a stingy man from stealing but the risk of the thing.

When you want to find a coward hunt up the man who knows he is wrong.

If there were no troubles to talk about some people would always be silent.

One of the most foolish men is the one who worries about things he can't help.

Working without a plan is one of the best ways in the world to waste your strength.

When the people find out a man is mean at home they don't care how good he professes to be at church.

Never keep nosing around in other people's business; the neighborhood will at last get tired of you.

Miss Eva Frear has sued the New York Central R. R. for \$40,000 for the death of her intended husband, who was killed by a railroad accident. This is the first suit of the kind on record.

She claims she lost a husband and her future support by the death of her fiancé.

Rhode Island has a property qualification for voters that is ten times more exacting than the proposed one in Alabama. But Rhode Island is a Republican state don'tcher know, hence the organs don't say anything about it, but bray like mules over a proposition of the kind in Alabama.

A contemporary sentimentously says: "Bull's Head Flavoring Extracts are good enough to be used by anybody and cheap enough to be used by everybody." That's it, cheap and good.

ABOUT SHERIFFS

CENTRE COUNTY'S GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE.

List of All Who held that Office Since 1809 —The Great Age Attained by Many of our Sheriffs.

Hon. John Blair Linn, in a recent article published in the *Keystone Gazette*, gives some valuable statistics showing the great age attained by most of the ex-sheriffs of our county. The following is the list:

The great age attained by some of the sheriffs of Centre county is remarkable and worthy of record.

JAMES DUNCAN, the first sheriff, commissioned October 28, 1800; born in Scotland in 1758, died in Aaronsburg October 14, 1843, aged eighty-five years.

WILLIAM RANKIN, commissioned October 25, 1803; born in Franklin county November 5, 1770, died in Ferguson township, November 29, 1837, in his seventy-eighth year.

ROLAND CURTIN, father of ex-Governor A. G. Curtin, commissioned November 14, 1806; born in Ireland, died in Bellefonte, November 8, 1856, aged eighty six years.

MICHAEL BOLLINGER, commissioned November 11, 1809; came from York county, Pa., in 1709, died in Aaronsburg January 8, 1840, aged seventy-six.

JOHN RANKIN, commissioned Nov. 6, 1812; born in Franklin county, May 1, 1779; died in Pennsylvania April 22, 1848, aged sixty-nine.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER, commissioned December 1, 1815; born December 25, 1777, in Shermans valley (now Perry county) died in Clearfield, Sept. 25, 1867, aged nearly ninety years.

JOHN MITCHELL, commissioned October 23, 1818; born in now Perry Co., March 8, 1781; died in Beaver county, August 3, 1849, aged sixty-nine.

JOSEPH BUTLER, commissioned October 22, 1821; born January 8, 1780; died at Milesburg, Nov. 15, 1862; aged eighty-two years, ten months and seven days.

THOMAS HASTINGS, JR., commissioned Nov. 17, 1824; born in the territory of now Centre county, Oct. 24, 1797; died in Brookville, Pa., in 1871, aged seventy-four years.

ROBERT TATE, commissioned Dec. 29, 1827; died in Clinton county, March 30, 1870, aged eighty years.

WM. WARD, commissioned Oct. 22, 1830; born April 15, 1795; died in Lamar township, Clinton county, June 29, 1852, aged fifty-seven years. He was reelected in 1836 and 1841. Therefore served three terms as sheriff of Centre county.

GEORGE LEIDY, commissioned Oct. 31, 1833; died September 25, 1850, in Lamar township, Clinton county, aged sixty-five years.

JOHN THOMPSON, commissioned Nov. 28, 1839; died January 22, 1876; in Half Moon township, aged seventy-eight years.

THOMAS M. HALL, commissioned Nov. 25, 1845; died in Milesburg, Nov. 1, 1879, aged seventy-three years.

WM. L. MUSSER, commissioned Nov. 26, 1848; died at Millheim Oct. 3, 1889, aged eighty-one years.

JOSEPH J. LINGLE, commissioned Nov. 25, 1851; died in Bellefonte July 28, 1892, aged eighty-one years and two months.

MORDECAI WADDLE, commissioned Nov. 27, 1854; died in Spring township August 20, 1885, aged sixty-three years and twenty days.

THOMAS MCCOY, commissioned Nov. 29, 1857; died in Phillipsburg in 1869, aged fifty-seven.

GEORGE ALEXANDER, commissioned Nov. 1, 1860; died in Unionville September 8, 1892, aged eighty-two years.

RICHARD CONLEY, commissioned Nov. 25, 1863; died in Benner township September 3, 1890, aged seventy-one years.

GEO. W. MUNSON, commissioned December 14, 1875; died at Phillipsburg September 30, 1896, aged about sixty-six years.

The surviving ex-sheriffs of Centre county are:

Daniel Z. Kline, elected in 1866.
D. W. Woodring " " 1869.
Benj. F. Shaeffer " " 1872.
John Spangler " " 1878.
Thomas Dunkle " " 1881.
W. Miles Walker " " 1884.
Robert Cooke, Jr. " " 1887.
William A. Ishler, Esq., is the present sheriff.

Adding two for additional terms of William Ward makes thirty incumbents, three years each, ninety years (1800—1890), the period of incumbency, none having died in office.

It will be noticed from the above that the average ages of the sheriffs of Centre county was over seventy-nine years. JOHN BLAIR LINN, Nov. 17, 1892.

Selling Baled Hay.

Baled hay is bringing \$14.50 to \$15 on track here. Hiram Durst, and others shipped several car loads last week.

IDENTIFYING PROPERTY.

Goods From a Snow Shoe Store Found in the Pile.

On Saturday Thomas Buddinger, of Snow Shoe, was in Williamsport, and in the morning called at the police station to have a look at the goods recovered from the home of Mrs. Matilda Jackson, in Williamsport, on Monday, and those found in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

Mr. Buddinger keeps a general store in Snow Shoe and on the night of October 12th, thieves effected an entrance to the building and succeeded in getting away with some cash and merchandise. From the safe and cash register the robbers stole \$45 in cash. Among the goods that he examined at the police station Saturday, he found some that he thought belonged to him. A pair of low shoes, both for the same foot, were among the miscellaneous assortment of merchandise. He said that just such a pair had been found in his store previous to the robbery, and he had made note of the manufacturer, and then wrapped the shoes up. They were laid away in the office at the store, he intending to send them back to the wholesale dealer. After the robbery they were missed. He thinks he now has a clue to the robbers.—*Gazette & Bulletin*.

SPRING MILLS.

Our Ubiquitous Scribe's Description of the Happenings.

The summer is over, Thanksgiving is gone, The time for sausage has come, And the squeal of the porker is heard o'er the town.

Rev. Hertz is holding a revival at Paradise at present.

Miss Jennie Yarnell, of Pine Grove Mills, is attending Dr. Wolf's School since Tuesday.

Our boys have bought a new football, and our physicians will soon be out of shin plasters.

A number of our young folks spent Sunday at Loganton.

Andrew Curtin Club, No. 1345, L. L. A., will hold its first regular meeting next Friday evening.

Centre Castle, K. G. E. is not napping, it has five young eagles in the nest a hatching just now.

The big festival, etc., is now a matter of history. From a business standpoint it probably was a success, for the receipts were \$45 and the personal injuries very light, while the losses by resignation were few, and by death, none. The past has its history, and the future its hopes.

Program—December to June.

The following program of amusements for the next six months, the REPORTER sets out for the benefit of the public.

December, the holiday season and a good time in general, with festivals and sprees thrown in.

January to March musical conventions and a good time for all fond of singing.

February to end of March public sales and free lunch for the hungry.

April, flittings, with hoe-downs and scuffling of household effects thrown in.

April to middle of June, trout fishing, preparation of medicine for rattle snake bites, and fish stories.

The balance of the summer can safely be set down for snake stories.

Pass'e this in your hat for ready reference.

Talking of gerrymanders, says the *Philadelphia Times*, the late election shows that in unequal representation Connecticut still holds the palm. The Democrats have a popular majority of over 5,000 in the state, but the Republicans hold both houses of the legislature. The twelve Democratic senators just elected represent a population of 476,313, while the twelve Republican senators represent a population of only 269,878. In the house of representatives the disparity is even greater; 132 Republicans are elected to represent a population of 255,862, while a population of 423,830 is represented by only 118 Democrats. This inequality is due not exactly to gerrymandered districts, but to the old plan of representation by towns, regardless of population, which the Republicans have refused to change because it secures them this unfair advantage.

Crushed in a Log Slide.

George Lucas, of Lock Haven, was injured so badly at a log slide on Youngwoman's creek Saturday afternoon that he died soon after. He was struck by a log as it rushed down the mountain and his body was horribly crushed. This is the second fatality that has occurred at a log slide in that vicinity this season.

"How would you like to cure your horse of that shaggy look and rough coat?" "Well you can do it by giving him Bull's-head Horse and Cattle Powder; a pound package costs only 25 cents."

A HERMIT'S LIFE

A CRAZY INVENTOR-HERMIT NEAR HUNTINGDON.

Joshua Gorsuch, the Eccentric Hermit of Lock Ridge, Ninety-three years old and Buses Himself with Crazy Inventions.

The Huntingdon correspondent of the *Philadelphia Times* is responsible for the following which appeared in the Sunday morning edition:

Just beyond the northeastern limits of Huntingdon borough, in a dense and thickly settled spot on Lick Ridge, lives an old hermit whose eccentricities have made him a familiar figure for many, many years.

Joshua Gorsuch was born in November, 1799, not more than a mile from his present mud hovel, and in the ninety-three years of his life he has never been farther than seventeen miles from that spot, and then only twice, having the past two years spent the winter months in the Poor House, at Shirlersburg. Although he is so ill clad that at times his aged body is barely protected from rain and snow and the piercing winds, and though his stomach rarely has an opportunity to digest anything better than crusts of stale bread, the old man holds the idea of the County Almshouse in holy horror. Persuasion could never induce him to go there, and it is only because of the weakness of his century-old frame that he succumbs to force. Members of the Humane Society always keep a watch over him when winter sets in, or perhaps long ere this he would have been in his grave. But the full-fledged Italian from New York city, with hand organ accompaniment, no sooner announces that "Springtime is here, gentle Annie," than the old man steals away from the County Home and on foot makes his way to the now well-known mud cottage near the summit of Lick Ridge.

And what a home it is! With one of his patent ditch-diggers—the horn of a buck, with hickory handle attached—succeeded in making an excavation in the side of the hill to the depth of six feet, and in this damp, rheumatic hole he sits for hours at a time musing over hoped-for wealth. It required many days for the old recluse to complete his home, and during the progress of its construction the architect and builder dined and lodged under a temporary brush heap within sight. Those old, deeply sunken, bloodshot eyes told of the joy which filled the heart of their owner when the cottage had been completed to his satisfaction, and in that secluded and to him sacred spot he could model his numerous inventions. Invention is Uncle Joshua's hobby, but his imagination has led him to believe that all his patents have been stolen by the government. On this subject the old man's mind wanders by day and his sleep at night is disturbed by dreams of success on the latest patent, only to be followed by the keen disappointment of a delusion that he has been robbed by the government. To look at him one fancies he sees Diogenes, but while Diogenes was looking for an honest man, Uncle Joshua is looking forward to a time when the United States Government shall be powerless to encroach upon his patent rights, and he shall be able to gaze with pleasure upon the millions that are in them.

His long, bony fingers, with nothing apparently on them but a scant covering of skin, and trembling like a leaf exposed to the wind, impress one as longing to grasp the dollars which he believes are sure to come from the introduction of his patents.

The most notable of his queer inventions are a cider press and an incubator. The former very much resembles the old-fashioned sausage-stuffer and the main handle is nothing less than a hickory tree sixty or more feet long. Joshua's consolation seems to lie in the fact that when apples, etc., are placed under this great pressure juice must come and worms must die. According to his own story it required him eight days to fell the tree and drag it the few feet to the sacred spot. He invariably refused outside assistance, fearing that the mission of any intruder was only to rob him of the invention. The completion of the cider press was followed by the invention of an incubator, and if the latter could only accomplish a part of what Uncle Joshua claims for it, old hens would have an easy time of it in the future. A long box with a glass lid was divided into numerous apartments, and each apartment was assigned a specific duty. No. 1 was for hatching ordinary chicken eggs, and the product according to Joshua's description, would be passed as feminine gender; but the product of an egg placed in an adjoining apartment was sure to be a rooster. Eggs being placed in other apartments—that is chicken eggs—the

hatch was liable to be a turkey, goose, duck, pigeon or quail. Like all his other inventions the incubator was a thing of only a moment, and he then began modeling a patent saw, berry picker and fire-extinguisher. None of his inventions have ever gotten beyond the mud hovel on the summit of the ridge, but the old man believes the government is making millions out of those stolen from him. While working on the new inventions his chief object seems to be to keep government officials off his track, and visitors frequently find him crouched in a very small space in his hut to escape detection.

Joshua never voted but once or twice in his very long life. For many years he has thus isolated himself, and the greater part of his life he has resided near his present abode. His hovel is in a beautiful situation on an elevation of perhaps three hundred feet, and directly at the foot of the hill or ridge the rippling waters of a wild and romantic stream can be heard. Joshua's appearance indicates that he has as little use for water as he has for the ladies. It is doubtful whether his long and bushy gray hair is ever combed, and hanging as it does over his face and neck, he very much resembles the wild man of the woods. And then his blood-shot and sunken eyes add nothing to his appearance. His summer clothing is the prolonged use of his winter wear.

The old man may be called a woman hater, and his opinion of the gentler sex is not at all complimentary. He was once married, and his present attitude toward women is no doubt due to that unhappy union. While he sits in his hovel, looking with scorn upon the illustrations of females in one of his sacred books, his old and discarded wife may be seen peddling truck from door to door in this town. Joshua will not converse with men if he can avoid them, much less women, and in any conversation he indulges in wealth must be the subject. He will then get in a happy mood in the prospect that the long looked for millions are near at hand. A visitor is hardly gone until the old man secludes himself in the snake-ridden hut and engages himself for a short time in modeling some patent.

Joshua realizes that his time on earth is limited, and he has already requested that his dry bones be laid to rest, without ceremony, near the spot he is now pleased to call home. He has even constructed a coffin for the interment of his own body, but it is not likely that his plans will be carried out strictly according to his wishes.

Lowest Water in Ninety-One Years.

The *Harrisburg Patriot* says the low waters in the Susquehanna river, November, 1892, has about reached the point marked on Maclay's rocks, opposite South street, by Balthazar Street. The mark he made in August, ninety-one years ago, reads, "1803." The figures are beautifully cut and are several inches long. The straight line below marks the lowest stage of the water of which there is any record. About forty years ago the numerals were visible above the face of the water and the marks almost so. At present the level of the water is in nearly the same condition.

Good Looks.

Good looks are more than skin deep, depending upon a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver be inactive, you have a bilious look, if your stomach be disordered, you have a Dyspeptic look and if your Kidneys be affected you have a Pinched look. Secure good health and you will have good looks. Electric Bitters is the great alterative and Tonic acts directly on these vital organs. Cures Pimples, Blotches, Boils, and gives a good complexion. Sold at J. D. Murray's Drugstore, 50c. per bottle.

A very big elephant has Philadelphia had on its hands for over a decade in the city building. It is still unfinished. Fifteen millions has already been expended on it. The cost was originally estimated at \$19,000,000. Two years ago it was given out by the commission that it would cost \$2,000,000 to complete it, and now after having expended more than \$2,000,000 it informs the public, who have to pay for this luxury, that it will require \$3,000,000 more. This will make the building cost \$18,000,000. Probably if the accounts could be investigated as Tilden and O'Connor investigated the cost of Tweed's court house in New York, a condition of affairs just as rotten would manifest itself.

We remember well when the building bill was before the legislature, there was a big job in it; the machine fought hard to have it passed, and bribery did it—now Philadelphia pays dearly for the work of roosters.