



## FIRE THE COURT HOUSE.

### AN ATTEMPT TO BURN DOWN THE COUNTY BUILDING.

The Rear of the Court Room Saturated with Oil, and Early Discovery of the Flames Saved the Building.

On Monday morning at about 2.30 o'clock, fire was discovered in the court house at Bellefonte, and the alarm was soon sounded that aroused the inhabitants of the town. A bright light was seen in the rear of the court room and in a few minutes the flames were rising to the ceiling, in a threatening manner. For about ten minutes the flames in the rear of the court room kept increasing and spreading until it looked as though the entire interior was aflame and doomed.

It was only a short time until the two fire companies each had a line of hose connected and streams playing on the fire. The one stream was sent in from the outside window. Another stream was taken up the south side stairway and turned on the door leading in the court room. In five minutes every spark was extinguished and the famous old building was saved from destruction.

The damage is not very great. The fire seems to have started at the landing on the second floor at the doors leading into the court room, on the south side. On the inside was a pair of swinging doors, and on the outside an ordinary heavy door that was securely locked. The distance was about six inches between the same, and the inside of the doors show that the fire burned longer between them than elsewhere, which indicates where it originated. The pair of swinging doors were almost burned away and the frame work and adjoining window-sills were considerably charred. The interior of the room is considerably smoked and some plastering will likely have to be removed. The Prothonotary's office and the Register and Recorder's offices were soaked considerably and will require new papering. The damage to the building is slight, not more than two or three hundred dollars.

The origin of the fire is, without a doubt, that of an incendiary. The rear hall door was found open. Going up the stairway to the burning doors a spot almost a foot in diameter was seen, near the crevice, of some liquid, which no doubt was oil. The draft from the stairway drew the flames inside the room. The presumption is that oil was injected under the door and there the match was applied. The fire could have been burning there for probably a quarter of an hour before gaining enough headway to be discovered.

Another indication of incendiarism is that the window, at the rear of the Treasurer's office was raised, the lock or catch at the top was broken and a crease on the window sill showed the mark of a pry or bar used to force up the sash and gain an entrance. The exit was made, no doubt, by way of the rear hall door, which was standing open.

The county commissioners carry an insurance of \$30,000 on the building and \$3,000 on the furniture and fixtures.

The building had a narrow escape from destruction. A few minutes later and the flames would have eaten through the door frame and after getting in the wall would have reached the attic in an instant and nothing could have saved it.

### Bank Cashiers Still at Work.

Cyrus E. Breder, cashier of the First National Bank of Bethlehem, has disappeared; so far a shortage of \$12,000 has appeared in his accounts.

Cashier Benton D. Hatcher, of the Great Falls, Mont., National Bank, has drawn \$180,000 of its funds and now the concern has been shut down.

Col. Wm. Jack and A. S. Morrow, the surviving partners in the assigned Holidaysburg bank, have been arrested, for receiving money on deposit at a time when they knew the institution to be insolvent.

Cashiers speculating with depositor's funds is what invariably busts a bank.

### A Good One.

A McKean county exchange prints a bicycle yarn that is worth copying. A wheelman of this place hung his wheel from a shelf in the cellar. A mouse jumped from the wall upon the front wheel which began to turn, and of course the mouse started for the top, but the wheel kept turning and the creature could not get enough foothold to leap to the shelf. In the morning the mouse was still running and the cyclistometer showed he had run twenty eight miles.

The largest stock, the lowest prices and satisfaction guaranteed is what gives the Philad. Branch, Bellefonte, its big trade. Once a customer always a patron of that store.

### Scuffled With a Bear.

Mrs. Elizabeth Schroeder, of this city, has in her possession a bear that was killed under exciting circumstances, John Genthner, of Bald Eagle township, a few days ago was tramping over the mountain in the 'Scotac region in quest of game, when he saw a bear under a rock. The brave hunter approached in close quarters to the animal; so close, indeed, that Mr. Bruin came out and swiped the man with his paw. A scuffle ensued, but Mr. Genthner finally broke loose and stepping back a few paces, up with his gun and sent two shots into the bear's head, which killed him. The bear is seven and a half feet long and weighs 500 pounds.

Mr. Genthner is known hereabouts as a mighty bear hunter. There is a report among his friends to the effect that a few years ago while on the mountain he had an encounter with a bear, which, if true, places him high in the estimation of bear hunters. He met the bear and having no weapons he took refuge between two fallen trees and pummeled the bear on the nose with his fist until the head of bruin was badly bruised. He finally so weakened the animal that he secured an opportunity to pick up a big stone and bring it down upon the bear's back, breaking it. Mr. Genthner, the story goes, was so worn out by the fight that he fell backward exhausted.—Lock Haven Democrat.

### Sense for Centre.

Those who talk about the central location of Harrisburg and its advantage in consequence as the place for the capital of the state need to be reminded that the argument is not a good one—for Harrisburg. If it is merely a central location that is wanted the best thing to do is to remove the capital to Centre county. The geographical centre of the state is in that county, not far from Bellefonte. Of the six Republicans elected Governor of the state since the organization of the party three have been residents of Bellefonte, and it would be almost as convenient to locate the capital there as in Beaver. The air of Centre county is wholesome; there are as many people there who are willing to hold office as can be found in Dauphin, Beaver or Philadelphia, and as a geographical center it is faultless.—Philadelphia Press.

### To Make Hawkers Take Out a License

A petition was circulated among Phillipsburg merchants, and which will be sent to the merchants throughout the county for their signature, asking the senate and assembly of Pennsylvania to pass a law compelling all hawkers to take out a license in regular form and imposing a fine and imprisonment upon all violators of the act. The petition in a very short time secured the signature of about 50 of our merchants and representative business men. A similar petition has been in circulation in Clearfield county and already has 150 signers. A like movement is in progress in Blair, Jefferson, Clinton and other counties of the state.—Ledger.

### Forest Preservation.

The subject of forest preservation is one of very great importance, yet one in which the legislature of the state is inclined to take only a profunatory interest, probably because the evils that neglect of the forests threatens would fall upon future generations. Governor Hastings, in his annual message, made need of practical forestry laws a theme of prominence, recommending earnest action at an early date. It is to be trusted this recommendation will receive the attention it deserves.

### Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses have been granted the past week: Thomas Duke, and Minnie Ellenberger, Phillipsburg.

J. Roland Confer, and Bertha Zeigler, Potters Mills.

Alexander Lucas, and Clara Furl, Milesburg.

Jesse Pidge and Lizzie Williams, Blanchard.

Herbert G. Rishel, Madisonburg, Annie Keen, Millheim.

Edward C. Gray, Shamokin, and May Hastings, Bellefonte.

Harry E. Yerger, and Mary T. Rapp, Bellefonte.

Jan. R. Johnson, Spring twp., and Annie C. Lytel, State College.

A few months ago Mr. Byron Every, of Woodstock, Mich., was badly afflicted with rheumatism. His right leg was swollen the full length, causing him great suffering. He was advised to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. One bottle of it helped him considerably and the second bottle effected a cure. The 25 and 50 cent sizes are for sale by S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville, J. H. Ross, Linden Hall, Wm. Fealer, Spring Mills, R. E. Bartholomew, Centre Hall.

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### CENTRE CO. ON ITS EAR.

Against Giving a Slice to Form Clinton.—The Bucksnot War.

1839. The agitation in favor of a new county to be called "Eagle," with the county-seat at Lock Haven, was early renewed. The contemplated dismemberment of Centre County was earnestly opposed in Centre County. A public meeting was held at Bellefonte, March 5th, presided over by George Boal, and resolutions offered by Gen. George Buchanan and James Gilliland, embodying the reasons for opposition to the new county.

On the same day a special election was held for State senator, vice Alexander Irvin, resigned. Anson V. Parsons and Maj. G. S. Armstrong were candidates. Parson's vote in Centre was 1192; Armstrong's, 354. Armstrong was considered the candidate of the division as well as of the Whig party. Senator Parsons had hardly gotten into his seat when the House, over Dr. Strobecker's exertions, passed the bill for the erection of Clinton County by a vote of 47 to 24.

The Democrat of March 26th, commenting on this action, says, "The majority of the members of the House have acted without reflection, and have done the people of Centre County a direct and unmerited injury. Our territory is compact, bounded by a natural boundary, and the only citizens remote from the seat of justice are in Logan township, a few of whom have to travel from 25 to 28 miles and are unanimous in remonstrating against it." A yankee, Jeremiah Church, is charged with wanting to enrich himself by selling lots at the new county town.

A county meeting was held at Bellefonte, April 23, presided over by Samuel Hays, of Bald Eagle; David Allison and John Henderson, of Lamar, Col. Andrew Kleckner, of Logan, and John Emerick of Walker, as Vice Presidents. This meeting adopted a strong address, embodying the reasons for opposing the new county, and appointed a committee consisting of Gen. Wm. W. Houston, Hon. Jacob Kryder, Col. Anthony Kleckner and Bond Valentine, Esq., to take charge of the subject.

Dec. 4, 1837, occurred the initiation of the Bucksnot war by the election of two Speakers by the rival parties in the House; the Ritner men, led by Thaddeus Stevens, electing Thomas C. Cunningham, and the Democrats William Hopkins. The Democracy of Centre County took a large interest in these proceedings, and a large meeting was held in the court-house at Bellefonte on Friday, Dec. 14. Col. Wm. Smyth presided; Col. Henry Barnhart, John Rankin, Esq., and James Gilliland, vice-presidents; Capt. S. H. Wilson, James Lourimore, and G. W. Hutchinson, secretaries. The meeting was addressed by Henry Petrikin and H. N. McAllister, Esq. The meeting recommended their Democratic friends at Harrisburg "to persevere with peaceable but unyielding firmness in their opposition to the tyranny and usurpations of Gov. Ritner and his officers." (Ritner and Stevens wanted to seat seven members from Philadelphia in the House who were not elected.)

The Democracy of Penn and Brush valleys also assembled at Aaronsburg, in the German Reformed Church. Hon. Jacob Kryder presided, with Michael Bollinger, Jacob Moyer, John Shook, John Shafer, John Kremer, Adam Harper, Ph. Dennis, John Hosterman, Esq., John Brown, and Daniel Spyker as vice-presidents; George Bear, Esq., Andrew Kremer, H. B. Mussina, and David Kremer, secretaries. James Maenanus, Esq., and J. G. Conser, Esq., addressed the meeting.

A meeting of Democrats of Gregg, Haines, Miles, and Logan was also held in the German Reformed Church. On the 17th of December the war ended by the appearance of Mr. Montelius, of Union County, and Messrs. Butler and Sturdevant, of Luzerne, in the House over which Mr. Hopkins was presiding.—Linn's History.

### Death Near Rebersburg.

Mrs. Maria Stitzer, wife of William Stitzer, died at her home south-east of Rebersburg, last Wednesday, 3rd, of paralysis. She was aged 52 years, 6 months and 16 days. She was the mother of eight children, all of whom with the husband survive her. The funeral took place last Saturday morning, interment being made in the Rebersburg cemetery. Deceased was a sister of Mrs. D. F. Luse, of Centre Hall.

### Died at Bellefonte.

Samuel Wyland, a veteran of the late war, died at his home in Bellefonte, Sunday morning, from stomach trouble. He was born at Rock Forge, this county, and was 59 years of age. During the rebellion he served in Captain Montgomery's company of the 148th regiment Pennsylvania volunteers.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### TROUBLE OVER COUNTING THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

The Republicans will be Forestalled in a Repetition of Fraud of '76.—Democrats Seated in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Senator Tillman has got out his pitchfork again, and he is going to use it if the Republicans try to throw out the electoral vote of South Carolina on the protest that is going to be made by Murray, the negro member of the House from that state, when the House and Senate meet this week in joint session to count the electoral votes. Senator Tillman said on the subject: "If McKinley is going to be inaugurated on the 4th of March, the joint Convention has got to count the vote of South Carolina. If the Republican party wants to make an attack on the constitution of the state, it must make it on some other ground or in some other manner than by endeavoring to prevent the counting of her vote. I wish to go further and express my preference for seeing Mr. McKinley President rather than to see the Presidential function exercised by Secretary Olney, as it will be after the 4th of March, if the effort is made to deny South Carolina the right to vote." The following significant language was used by Representative McCall, of Mass., who is a Republican and Chairman of the Election committee which has charge of the contested election cases from South Carolina in this Congress: "It is true, apparently, that the election laws and constitution of South Carolina disbar a large proportion of the population from voting, but it seems to be the illiterate ones who are disfranchised. There is a question in the minds of many intelligent men whether this is not a wise plan if constitutionally enforced and carried out according to law. A full generation has passed since the colored men were enfranchised, and I do not know how long they can expect us to coddle them and fight to secure their electoral rights, while they neglect to learn to read and write."

Nobody was surprised when the Senators who have been pushing the Nicaragua Canal Bill decided to give up the fight. At no time during the present session has the bill had the slightest chance of getting through the House, even if passed by the Senate. It should have been passed by the Senate notwithstanding the protests of Nicaragua, but it could only have been done by a protracted fight which would have resulted in preventing action by the Senate upon other legislation.

Senator Daniel has made a point against the arbitration treaty which may result in arraying the silver Senators solidly against its ratification. The point is that if the United States should adopt the free coinage of silver while that treaty was in force, England could put in a claim for the difference between the value of principal and interest of American debts held in England, under the new system of a double standard and under the present single gold standard, and if a majority of the arbitrators happened to be gold men would probably get a decision in favor of the claim.

A marked feature of the contested election cases decided last week by the House was that the Democrats who held the seats were upheld by the Republican majority. The Democrats so honored were Representatives Swanson, of Va.; Kendall, of Ky., and Price and Boatner, of La. Tom Watson's contest has been decided by a committee against him and in favor of Representative Black, and will this week be decided the same way by the House.

Canada has sent two members of its ministry to Washington to offer liberal trade concessions in exchange for duties in the new tariff bill that will not shut out Canadian agricultural products, but it looks as though they would just as well have remained at home so far as accomplishing anything goes. The Republicans have already agreed to a schedule of rates on agricultural products that raises the duties to such an extent that it will bar out Canadian products.

The Washington Post has been having fun with Secretary Morton. Its latest hit is too good to be overlooked: "The Post is under obligations to Hon. J. Sterling Morton for his most valuable report on 'Tape-Worms of Poultry.'" By the keen employment of that twin screw and double expansion logic for which the head of the Agricultural Department is so noted, the writer is able to show that this pest which is annoying to farmers and adding to their mortgages is due directly to the constant agitation of the financial question by irresponsible persons who do not agree with the present administration."

The swearing in of Senator Kenney, of Delaware, which the most radical

of the Republicans had not the cheek to object to, after the Committee on elections had refused to reopen the Dupont claim, makes a full senate of ninety members. There will probably be a break in the ranks again after the 4th of March, either on account of no successor being selected to Senator Blackburn or because of a deadlock in one or more states which have not yet elected Senators.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Quay and Wademaker factions in the legislature are still throwing sticks and stones at each other.

The Ohio Republican situation is getting interesting. It is resting over a mine of dynamite, and when it is touched off, oh lordy, what an explosion there'll be.

Already attempts were made by political jobbers to hook on to a big, fat job in the erection of a new capitol. Snake legislation was discovered a few days ago; it was a regular copperhead disguised as a harmless water snake. Some members saw the reptile and began to stone it.

There will be no local legislation for Centre county asked for at Harrisburg during the present session. Happy county, and out of debt too.

To the consternation of the Republicans it appears the next U. S. Senate will be controlled by the Democrats and Populists, with a free silver majority.

There is a lull just now in the race for post-masterships. But wait until the special train starts from Canton for Washington and see what tumbling there will be over boxes, kegs, rubbish piles and thro puddles, of 200 thousand patriots, each one trying to get there first with his petition.

Kenney, Democrat, of Delaware, has been awarded the contested seat in the senate.

The Bonneka murder trial has been a salty affair for Blair county, particularly the bill of the detective company of over \$22,000. And now a new trial is asked for. The tax-payers are up in revolt.

### Look Out For Them.

A new swindle is being worked in a number of towns by two confederates in this manner: "One of them goes into a store and purchases a small article, paying with a bill which has previously been marked. Picking up his change he departs. In a few minutes the other fellow enters and buys a cigar; after standing around a few minutes he asks the clerk for his change. The swindler insists that he has paid and remembers it very distinctly because the bill he gave the clerk had a very peculiar mark upon it, which he describes. The clerk looks in the till, finds the bill as described, gives him his change and apologizes for detaining him."

### Recent Mifflin Co. Deaths.

In Granville twp., David A. Esterline, aged 52 years.  
Near Barrville, Joseph Harkness, aged 76 years.  
At Burnham, John H. Garrett, aged 56 years.  
In Lewistown, James McManamy, aged 60 years.  
In Menno, wife of Moses Peachey, aged 25 years.  
Near Vira, wife of Samuel H. Fleming, aged 61 years, 7 m.  
In Wayne twp., George Earnest, age 70 years.

### To Florida via Pennsylvania R. R.

The midwinter exodus has begun. The discomforts and dangers of wet winter weather are here, but to the southward, from a cloudless sky, beams a beautiful sun upon a blooming land.

The next Pennsylvania Railroad tour to Jacksonville, allowing two weeks in Florida, will leave New York and Philadelphia Feb. 9.

Excursion tickets, including railway transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth,) and meals en route in both directions while traveling on the special train, will be sold at the following rates, New York, \$50.00; Philadelphia \$48.00; Canandaigua, \$52.85; Erie, \$54.85; Pittsburg, \$53.00, and at other proportionate rates from other points.

For tickets, itineraries, and other information apply to ticket agents, Tourist Agent at 1136 Broadway, New York, or to Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. feb-21

### One Way to be Happy.

Is to attend to the comfort of your family. Should one catch a slight cold or cough, call on R. E. Bartholomew, Centre Hall, and G. H. Long, Spring Mills, and get a trial bottle of Otto's Cure, the great German Remedy free. We give it away to prove that we have a sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Constipation, and all diseases of the throat and Lungs. Large sizes 50c. and 25c.

### FARMERS SHOULD PLANT TREES.

Editor Reporter:—The wholesale denudation of our once grand mountain ranges, by the grasping lumberman, in his haste to get rich, has raised a serious question for all our farmers to consider, in their granges, institutes, and social gatherings. There is not much time either to delay action, because in a very short time tree planting will be in order again.

It is not necessary to dilate upon the evil effects of bare mountains. All that is necessary is to mention them; the decrease in rainfall, and increase in evaporation of springs and streams. The farmers of the valleys will be directly the sufferers, for they cannot put back the covering of trees and shade upon the mountains.

But there is one thing that they can all do, especially in exposed areas like Brush valley, which has many years ago ceased to typify its name. They can and ought to plant belts of shade trees, not only along the public roads, but all other ways across the valley, in such a manner as to break the force of the winds as well as to afford shade and draw moisture.

Some farmers have already commenced to plant trees in this manner along their farms, but the valleys are yet too bare and exposed, and some general concert of action will be in order in the spring.

A few words as to the varieties of trees to plant. From a standpoint of economy, where fruit trees are not needed, the best and most rapid grower is the maple. The next is a sugar tree, which is of slower growth; then the walnut. The strong points in favor of the maple are rapid growth, symmetry of form, good shade and very little tax on the soil. The black walnut is a good grower and a very valuable tree at maturity, but it draws hard on the soil like the hickory and cherry.

Walnut trees should however, be planted, and they will grow on stony or rocky land quite as freely as any forest tree. The best way to raise the walnut is from the seed which must be lightly covered with earth or mould before freezing time is past, since the frost splits the shell and enables the kernel to germinate.

This generation will have to begin to plant trees for the next, in order to make natural restitution for that which it has ruthlessly taken off, or the next generation will be visited with the direful effects of our folly. B.

### AARONSBURG.

Miss Katie Bollinger Fell and Fractured a Bone in Her Arm.

Miss Katie Bollinger, teacher of the primary school, slipped and fell on the ice one morning last week, and fractured her arm. She at once called in the doctor, had the bone set and resumed her duties.

James Coble accompanied by his little daughter, of Johnstown, has been visiting among his friends and relatives in this vicinity for the past ten days; he says there is a scarcity of work there now.

Earn Stover with his traction engine has had a good bit of work during the winter sawing stove-wood, shingles, and cutting corn-fodder; as usual, when not engaged at work he is hunting foxes.

Squire Sammy Gettig is selling a new kind of ware made out of allum-minium clay. The bean baker is a dandy and beans baked in it are fit for a King to eat. The old man's name was placed on the pension rolls at the rate of \$6 per month and he is happy.

Since the holidays the Wyle Bros have been supplying this community with frozen lake fish, pike, white fish, and ciscoes and are doing a rushing business. Every week they receive and dispose of several hundred pounds.

Ed. Rowler, who bought the old hotel stand from Mr. Phillips, is making every preparation to start a first-class boarding house and advertise for city boarders to spend the summer.

There is going to be quite a race for the Yearick property as there are now no less than half a dozen persons who are aiming for it, and all want to pay about the same price. Somebody will have to bid higher and get it.

### Compulsory Voting.

Among the bills introduced in the Legislature was one making voting compulsory. Under its provisions every voter is to be looked up, and if he does not come to the polls, in the absence of proof of his physical inability to be present, he is to be fined. While it is not only a privilege, but a duty, to vote, it would be drawing it pretty strong to make it compulsory.

—25 Good Envelopes, 2c. 1 set Mrs. Potts Sad Irons, nickled, 75c. Large invoice of above, at these figures while they last. Many others to please the eye, and pocket book as well.—G. O. Benner.

It is now settled the Nat. Guard is not to attend the inauguration.