

The Centre Reporter.

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NO. 8

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

BRYAN ON A VISIT TO THE CAPITAL.

With Prominent Democrats he will discuss the Future Plans for a Free Silver Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Hon. W. J. Bryan will visit Washington this week, but he will not probably stay until inauguration day. He will be the guest of Mr. John R. McLean, who will give a dinner to about one hundred guests in his honor. This dinner will not be a political event, as the guests will include a number of personal friends of Mr. Bryan in all the parties. But during Mr. Bryan's stay there will be a conference, perhaps several, to discuss the immediate future of the Democratic party.

Senator Daniel, of Va., is one of the best eloquentists in the Senate; consequently Washington's farewell address, which, in accordance with the usual resolution was read immediately after the Senate convened, in honor of Washington's birthday, was much better rendered than usual, and was listened to by an unusually large number of Senators, in addition to the crowded galleries.

It is unfortunate in more senses than one that there should be an investigation at this time into an act of the administration by which the step-father of the President's wife will be largely benefited. And everybody sincerely wishes that the Senate Committee on Public Lands will find everything straight about the Florida land patent for 23,000 acres, which was recently issued to Mr. Perrine, the husband of Mrs. Cleveland's mother, and which the Committee is now investigating. Ex-Congressman Brookshire, of Indiana, is counsel for the settlers on this land, who claim that the grant was forfeited many years ago.

The Civil Service Commission has made answer to Senator Allen's resolution, adopted by the Senate last week, as to the alleged dismissal of two women from a branch of the Agricultural Department, at South Omaha, Nebr., for displaying pictures of Mr. Bryan in the late campaign. The answer says the Commission investigated the complaint when first made and that Secretary Morton denied that the discharges were made for the cause specified, or that he knew the politics of those discharged. The most significant portion of the answer, especially to those in office who regard themselves as being protected by the Civil Service Commission, is the following: "The Commission is not an appointing, or reinstating, or removing body."

Representative McRae, of Ark., who was one of the Democratic members of the Coinage committee who voted for the favorable report, with amendments, of the Senate bill authorizing the President to appoint delegates for any international monetary conference called by any nation or by himself, took occasion to briefly state the attitude of the Democrats toward the bill. He said the Democrats had no faith whatever in such a method of bringing about the free coinage of silver, but that they had no desire to place any obstacles in the way of the Republicans trying to carry out the promise made by their national platform; on the contrary, that they were anxious for the next administration to demonstrate to the country what could be done along that line.

Notwithstanding Senator Kyle's assertion that he did not get the Republican votes which reelected him by making promises, the Republicans in Washington are now counting upon his voting with them to obtain control of the Senate organization and to fill Committee vacancies that will exist March 4th. This confidence of the Republicans is not based upon any vague expectation or hope; they do not say Senator Kyle may vote with us, but that Senator Kyle will vote with us. In voting with the Republicans in this particular case, should his vote settle the question, Senator Kyle will betray the principles he has professed ever since he entered the Senate.

As most people know, the Senate Finance Committee, as at present made up, is controlled by silver, although seven of its thirteen members, including the Chairman, are Republicans. There will be two vacancies in this committee on March 4th. Senator Sherman will enter the Cabinet and Senator Voorhees will retire to private life. The Republican leaders consider it necessary, as this is the Committee that will handle the new tariff bill, that both of these vacancies shall be filled by men who can be counted upon to support the new tariff bill and to oppose any silver legislation that may be proposed; and they are saying that Senator Kyle, whose advocacy of silver and of free trade is widely known, will vote with them. If he does, what will be the natural inference?

Representative Walker, of Mass., couldn't upset the Reed rules, but he could and did express himself very vigorously on the subject, saying in part: "Under the rules of this House, we get mighty few rights. When you go to see about a bill, you are referred to a sub-committee, and then you may cool your heels there day after day before you can get so much as one member of the sub-committee to hear you. And when you do, he tells you he knows all about it and intimates that you are boring him. Then when he reports against you and you try to appeal to the full committee, you get no satisfaction." He called this "a system of tyranny," and added much more to the same effect.

MERRILL LINN DROPS DEAD.

Famous Lewisburg Lawyer, Historian and Teacher Passes Away Suddenly.

J. Merrill Linn dropped dead at his home in Lewisburg on Wednesday. Captain Linn was commanding officer of company H. 51st Pennsylvania volunteers from September 1, 1861, to April 14, 1864, when he resigned. He was an eminent lawyer, a great reader, with a wonderful memory for the details of what he read, and a man of broad culture and superior intelligence.

Mr. Linn was an authority on local history and was lately engaged in the compilation of the history of the 9th army corps. He was a candidate for judge against Judge Bucher on the Republican ticket and was a man who stood high with his fellow citizens.

He was a brother of John Blair Linn, of Bellefonte, and was well-known to the residents of Centre county.

Interest on State Balances.

Senator Kaufman has received replies from 23 States in his search for information about the payment of interest on State balances. In the following States interest is paid and the rate runs from 2 to 4 per cent.: New York, Maryland, Wisconsin, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, South Carolina, North Carolina, Rhode Island, North Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota.

In Pennsylvania millions of public funds are deposited in favorite banks and the state does not get a cent for it, but the Republican bosses are supposed to put a nice bonus into their pockets in thus farming out the public funds, and this is the reason the school orders are not paid—the banks use the money and the ring use the interest.

A Winter Snake Story.

We can get in a summer snake story when the serpents are about, but here is one that has all the chills of winter. A portion of a sandbank caved in on the old Clark farm, near Sharon, Pa., one day last week, and disclosed a ball of snakes several feet in circumference. They were thawed out and over 100 were killed. Several others were found frozen, and when thrown on the ground broke like sticks. The length varied from 8 inches to 2 feet. Altogether this winter over 300 have been found balled together in that bank.

An Odd Custom.

Some of the Prussian girls have an odd way of finding out which of a number will be married first. The girls take some corn and make a small heap of it on the floor; and in it conceal one of their finger rings. A chicken is then introduced and let loose beside the little heap of corn. Presently the bird begins to eat the grain, and whichever ring is first exposed, the owner of it will be the first to marry.

Died on Saturday.

Died at the residence of R. A. Dellett, at Washington, D. C., Saturday morning, February 20, Mary C. Dellett. Her remains were taken to Milroy and interred in the new cemetery on Monday. Deceased had been in delicate health for some years but the immediate cause of her death was heart failure. She was a sister of W. S. Dellett, of Milroy, and W. W. Dellett, of this place.

Union Co. Deaths.

At Red Top, Lavina Yost Benfer, aged 75 years.

At Buffalo Roads, George Dieffenbacher, aged 68 years.

Wife of Wm. Curwin, formerly of Mifflinburg, aged 56 years.

For Sale.

The Harpster property now occupied by D. J. Meyer, will be offered at private sale. It is desirably located, and has good dwelling house, stable, and other necessary outbuildings, along with a large building now occupied by A. J. Reesman's stove and tin store. The property will be offered at bargain. Address JOHN S. HARPSTER, 123 Stephenson St., Freeport, Ill.

THE WEATHER.

Foster's Weather Forecasts for the Latter Part of February.

My last bulletins gave the forecasts of the storm to cross the continent from 17th to 21st, and the next disturbance will reach the Pacific coast about the 22d, great central valleys 24th to 26th, eastern states 27th.

Warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about 22d, great central valleys 24th, eastern states 26th. Cool wave will cross the west of the Rockies country about 25th, great central valleys 27th, eastern states March 1st.

This disturbance will occur in the high temperature storm period, and preceding the storm wave the temperature will average high. But great fall in temperature is expected between the warm wave of this disturbance and March 9, and, therefore, the cool wave of this disturbance will probably be a cold wave.

At this time I am not sure whether the cold wave will follow the above described disturbance or the one following it, and it will be best to prepare for it on the earlier dates given as the last cold wave in February.

Heavy snows in the north and heavy rains in the south are expected to accompany this disturbance. The northern states should prepare for winter weather in March.

McKinley's Inauguration Bible.

Bishop Arnett, of the African Methodist Episcopal church, is in Washington arranging for the entertainment of the members of the committee appointed to present Major McKinley a Bible for use in the inaugural ceremonies.

"The Bible upon which Major McKinley will take his oath of office on the 4th of March as president of the United States will be very fine and elegant volume," said Bishop Arnett. The book will be donated to Major McKinley for this purpose as the gift of the African Methodist Episcopal church. It is now being printed in Cincinnati by the Methodist book publishing house. It will be handsomely bound and lined front and back with silk, with a suitable dedicatory inscription upon the inside. On the outside there will be a beautiful gold plate in the form of a shield, on which the name of the president, the date and the name of the donor will be handsomely engraved. The Bible will be enclosed in a handsome box made of native Ohio wood and gold mounted.

Suddenly Closed.

Harter's school house, five miles from Bellefonte, is built up along a hill and last Sunday night was crowded to its very uttermost capacity on account of revival services. There were a large number of seekers and everything was progressing finely when all at once the building began to give way. There was a general stampede and a rush for the door and windows. Rev. Sechrist closed the meeting immediately and everybody escaped without injury to anyone.—Bellefonte Gazette.

Want the Railroad Extended.

Since the completion of the Bellefonte Central Railroad to Pine Grove Mills the people in Stone Valley, across the mountain from the present terminus of the road, have been excited over the extension into their valley. Meetings have been held, right of way secured and considerable money has been subscribed to push the line through. Stone Valley people want the road badly, having no outlet, and if it will be extended it will it will enhance the value of their farms.

Changes Made.

Commissioner of Pensions Murphy has issued an order directing that all cases of helpless minors for continuance of pensions under the act of June 27, 1890, will be made extra special, and chiefs of divisions have been directed to take up such changes at once and put them to an early adjudication.

WHERE IT WENT.

If Senator Kaufman desires a starting point for disappearing state funds, let him read the speech of the late Judge Orvis, member of the House, from this county, made some fifteen years ago, and he will find a hole where one million disappeared.

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—For bargains on Spring Harrows, Plows and Phosphate give your order to Ira C. Korman, Oak Hall, Pa.

COUNCIL'S DOINGS.

A CONDENSED REPORT OF THEIR MOVES.

The Work of our Esteemed Boro Fathers the Past Year.—Expenses Connected with the Work on Streets.

done to get one and two of the bank on the council!

If a violation of the law should render such bonds illegal the payment of them would fall upon councilmen who have property, while those that have no property would pay nothing. We refer to this in all kindness, so councilmen don't innocently err.

On the same pages it will be found there is a penalty of one thousand dollars for a violation of this law.

Quer the bonding wasn't known until citizens paid their 20 per cent. interest tax in addition to their regular boro tax for the work on pike. On inquiring of president of council, Prof. Wolf, we were assured no bonds had been issued and that the interest tax must be a mistake. By councilman Brisbin we were informed bonds had been signed, and councilman Foreman frankly admitted the same.]

The work on Kerlin's hill cost near \$613. The work on Hoffer's hill cost about \$155. 5000 brick for crossings cost \$44 and \$13 for hauling. Work on crossings cost \$25.

Aug. 22, two motions by Deininger; expenses ordered paid.

Sept. 11, bills ordered to be paid.

Oct. 2, bills ordered to be paid; two motions made by Deininger.

Oct. 16, two motions by Deininger; bills ordered paid. Garis resigns.

Nov. 20, bills ordered paid.

Dec. 3, motion by Brisbin; bills ordered paid.

Feb. 5, '97, motion by Brisbin; bills ordered paid.

We omit mention of all unimportant matter.

EXPENSES, ETC.

Total amount of bills paid in above twelve months, - - \$1077.66

Curious Facts About March 4.

No fears need be felt, by this generation at least, that our Presidents cannot be inaugurated on the 4th of March as in the past times on account of that day happening to fall on Sunday, as such an occurrence will not take place until the year 2717. After that date for 168 years, week days will be on hand. After 2985 people must wait 84 years before the inauguration will be postponed because of a Sunday 4th of March. Not to be too long about it we may say that from 1887—our last Presidential Sabbath as it might be termed—such an event will occur but eleven times until 4621 and by that time most of us will, we hope, be out of our misery.

May 13, '96, met in room above the bank. Doc Ritter made a very sensible motion, forbidding councilmen to work on streets, which was adopted, (but how the Doc managed to squeak in a motion is a puzzler.) Deininger makes two motions on brick, etc.

May 22, '96, met in their own room; Deininger stated the object and made a motion; work on Hoffer street ordered to go on.

June 5, '96, Al. Krape refuses to be chief of police. Complaint that limbs on some trees hang too low. Deininger makes a motion to pay bills. Cost of work on Hoffer hill up to June 5, is \$88.45.

June 28, '96, motion by Deininger to elect Chas. Arney chief of police by acclamation.

July 3, '96, Deininger moves to borrow \$300 for expenses; further bills for Hoffer hill work to amount of \$65 are brot in. Deininger makes a motion to lay a tax for expenses. Deininger also makes two other motions.

July 31, '96, Bradford moves to make a survey of pike; Deininger moves to appoint Brisbin hire a stone crusher.

Deininger moves that the work on pike go ahead; Brisbin gets a chance to make a motion for a committee to direct the survey.

BONDING THE TOWN.

Aug. 7, '96, Deininger motion to reconsider his \$300 motion.

Forman offers ordinance adopting Penn Av. as a street; Deininger moves a huck license ordinance. Deininger moves to bond the property in the boro for one thousand dollars in ten bonds of \$100 each to pay for work on pike, (he has no property), payable after Aug. 1901, with interest at 5 per cent. semi-annually, under act of Ap. 20, '74. Also to lay an interest tax of \$80 each year to provide for these bonds.

Motion by Deininger relative to interest.

[Here we ask the property holders to reflect: See sections of the law on pages 1243 to 1245, digest, where it says before an indebtedness can be made it shall be first published for the information of tax payers and then submitted to a vote, which has not been done.

Again, the law says the interest is payable in a year after the debt has been made. This law has been violated, since the interest was collected from the citizens last fall before the bonds were lifted, a year in advance!

Then the same law says 8 per cent. of the amount of the debt shall be collected yearly, and since only \$400 in bonds has been taken, at 8 per cent. amounts to only \$32, yet \$80, or 20 per cent. on the \$400 was collected!

Who is to handle this unlawful sur-

plus interest? Likely the bank, and

this may, in the minds of some, ex-

plain the joke why such hard work is

done to get one and two of the bank

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