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NO. 11

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### THE DEMOCRATS SECURE DEFENSE FOR THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

**A Resolution Expressing Sympathy for the Boers Discussed Behind Closed Doors by the Senate.—Republicans Afraid of England.**

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The amendment of the Nicaragua Canal treaty, giving this country the right to defend and control the canal in time of war, although opposed by a Republican—Senator Davis—was a Democratic triumph, because the amendment is an unqualified endorsement of the position taken by the Democrats when the treaty was first made public. As amended, the treaty will probably receive the votes of enough Democratic Senators to make its ratification reasonably certain although there are features in it that will prevent some Democrats from voting for its ratification.

Are the majority of the Senate afraid of England? Their action, when Senator Mason compelled the Senate to take up his resolution, expressing sympathy for the Boers, certainly looked that way. The majority refused to allow the resolution to be discussed in open session, because things would be said that might offend England. Ye Gods! this sort of talk in the American Senate, where men who cringed to no foreign friend or foe, once upon a time fearlessly expressed their opinion and time after time have spoken in favor of down-trodden peoples, without stopping to think whether their oppressors would like it or not. Now, as soon as anything affecting England is even mentioned, the majority orders the doors closed. What a picture for the American people to contemplate. Even in secret session, the administration Senators are afraid to allow Senator Mason's resolution to be squarely voted upon. Their program is to throttle it by having a majority vote to lay it on the table. If the so-called era of friendship with England is to result in squelching our Americanism and our love for liberty, the sooner it comes to an end, the better for us as a people.

Whether Gen. Joe Wheeler takes his seat in the House depends upon Mr. McKinley. Under date of Nov. 28th, 1899, Gen. Wheeler forwarded his resignation as a brigadier general of volunteers from the Philippines, to Mr. McKinley. If Mr. McKinley accepts the resignation to take effect on that date, which was before the assembling of Congress, no objection will be raised to Gen. Wheeler taking his seat in the House.

In order to get Republican votes enough in the Senate to pass the Porto Rican tariff bill, numerous amendments have been agreed to, among them one to admit all goods from the U. S. to Porto Rico free of duty. And it may be necessary to reduce the duty on Porto Rican products below the fifteen per cent. provided for in the House bill. It will be a long time before the hard feelings aroused among Republicans by this bill pass away, and Republicans admit that it is likely to cost them a number of seats in the House.

As though there were not already a sufficient number of differences between Mr. McKinley and his party in Congress, a new and serious one has turned up in the reciprocity treaty with France. Mr. McKinley is insisting that the Senate shall ratify the treaty at the present session, while leaders in his party in the Senate, knowing the extent of the party opposition to the treaty, wish to let the matter go over until the next session, under the pretense that the Committee on Finance wishes time to make an exhaustive investigation into the effect the treaty will have upon our revenues, if ratified. Neither side has yet won, but the Senators know that they have only to hold out to make Mr. McKinley back down, as he has done in every controversy he has had with his party leaders in Congress.

A new and interesting bit of political gossip is that Mr. McKinley is seriously thinking of making a scapegoat of Secretary Hay, with the hope of squaring himself with the numerous and influential Republicans who have been making vigorous protests against the too-English foreign policy of the administration. It would be nothing new for Mr. McKinley to sacrifice a friend to serve his own political interests, but in this particular case it is doubtful whether the sacrifice would do more than add to the country's belief in the adroitness of Mr. McKinley in looking out for No. 1. Mr. Hay is inviting the sacrifice by his talk against the amendment of the Nicaragua Canal treaty.

A joint resolution, intended to give Gen. Miles promotion, has been offered in Senate and House, by Senator

Lodge and Representative Moody, of Mass. It provides that the Senior Major General, when in command of the army, shall have the rank and pay of Lieut. General and shall be retired with that rank. The administration has quietly opposed all legislation along this line, because of the pull of Adjutant General Corbin, who is bitterly hostile to Gen. Miles and it will probably do the same in this case.

As the result of a week's work, the Republicans of the House have unseated two Democrats, one from Alabama and one from Va.—and seated two Republicans.

The Senate sat down quick and hard on Senator Hoar's scheme to give ex-Queen Lil, of Hawaii, \$20,000, and a yearly pension of \$10,000. We have not reached the stage yet of willingly paying pensions to ex-royalties, either white or chocolate colored.

### Frozen Dog and Quail.

There is an exhibition at Kessler's hotel in Northumberland, says the Sunbury Daily, a tableau group of a setter dog and a dozen quail, in the attitude usually assumed by birds and dogs when brought into close quarters in the woods.

The exhibition has attracted much attention, though the warmer weather may spoil it soon. The dog belonged to Burgess Thomas Kessler.

During the very cold weather just after the beginning of February, Burgess Kessler took a young setter out to the woods to give him an outing, thinking that he might see a few birds and further the work of training the setter. He took no gun. It was the closed season for game birds.

While going up the ravine at Blue hill (it was extremely cold on account of the sharp wind) Burgess Kessler missed the dog. He hunted for half an hour, but could find no trace of the animal. He returned home, thinking that the dog had preceded him, but the animal was not there. Nothing was seen of the dog until Thursday, when the Burgess went back to Blue hill to make another search.

In the thicket where the dog had last been seen, but securely hidden by the evergreens, the Burgess discovered the animal standing, with his nose pointed fairly ahead as natural as if alive. Half a dozen yards away were about a dozen quail, all of them frozen. The setter had scented the birds and stood waiting for his master to come.

The dog, in his instinctive effort to locate the game for his master, and the quail, in their fear to move in the dog's presence, had all frozen to death. There had been no thawing weather under the lowering brow of the hill since the day the animal met the quail. The Burgess gathered up the frozen quail, brought them to town and placed them on exhibition.

### Foolish Things Boys Do.

Albert Lenenger, aged 12, was killed at Macedonia Saturday morning by a Cleveland & Pittsburg train a companion having bantered him to cross the track in front of a Cleveland & Pittsburg train, a companion having bantered him to cross the track in front of it. His head was cut off.

By attempting to play a practical joke, Charles Lee, a young colored man of Lancaster, almost lost his life a few days ago. He went into the yard and climbed up a tall tree. Tying a rope to a stout limb, he placed the noose in the other end around his neck. Lee's idea was to call the family and alarm them by threatening to take his life, but his feet slipped before he gave the yell and he swung free from the limb. He was cut down just in time to prevent his choking to death.

### The Truth of It.

Philadelphia Record: The champions of the Frye-Hanna bill still prize the "enormous" postal and admiralty subsidies of Great Britain, Germany and France to steamship companies. The truth is that the \$9,000,000 annual subsidy in this bill greatly exceeds the total steamship subsidies of all the governments of Europe carrying the ocean mails. In these European subsidies there is a large compensation to the governments which pay them in postal revenues; in the Frye-Hanna subsidy there is none.

### Three Days' Celebration.

A large public meeting was held in the court house at Bellefonte at the call of Commissioners Heckman and Meyer, taking initial steps for the proper celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the organization of Centre county. It was decided to hold a three days' celebration, the exact date not yet decided upon. A committee was appointed to further the project.

### Ahead This Year.

Clearfield county built more school houses during the year ending June 30, 1899, than any other county in the state with the single exception of Westmoreland, which erected 18 to Clearfield's 17.

## HUMMEL FOUND GUILTY

**And Sentenced.—Jury Out Five Minutes.**

After being out a short time on Monday afternoon the jury declared that Wm. H. Hummel, the rag peddler, of Black Hole Valley, was guilty of murder in the first degree for killing his wife and her three children. It is known that the jury decided upon a verdict upon the first ballot within five minutes after leaving the court room, but delayed reporting for appearance sake.

When the jury announced its finding, Hummel heard the verdict without changing countenance. Judge Metzger, in addressing the prisoner, said:

"The sentence I am about to pass is the sentence of the law, and not my sentence. The evidence shows clearly that you are guilty of premeditated murder. Banish all hopes from your mind that you are going to escape. In so far as your life is concerned, it is forfeited. The evidence is also of such a character that you can expect no clemency from the Governor as far as a pardon is concerned. You have no hope this side of the grave."

Hummel denied his guilt when asked if he had anything to say. "Why, I did not do the murders," he whined. "It was a blind murder. I would sooner go to the pen for many years than hang. If I had done it I would own up like a man."

Judge Metzger then sentenced the convicted man. After being taken back to jail Hummel explained to his lawyers what he meant by a blind murder. He said no person had seen the crime committed and he had not been proven guilty.

While being escorted back to jail after hearing the verdict of the jury Hummel broke away from the officers, and, rushing into the midst of a party of ladies attempted to kiss one of them. He was restrained by Sheriff Gamble, however. He afterwards glared at other women and exclaimed:

"What are you gawking at me for?" Hummel, on Tuesday, asked that his nephew be sent for, and to the boy he made the request that he buy a burial lot for him. He did not want the doctors to have his body and cut it up.

At another time he appealed to sheriff Gamble to get the people to petition the Pardon Board, and then when he is set free they would have a supper, at which he would tell all about the murder.

### Assessor's Pay.

Editor Reporter: In examining the County statement I find some very excessive and outrageous bills that were paid by the County Commissioners, and in which cases the county auditors should have made some more charges, and in looking over the assessor's account one can readily detect the inequality. Bellefonte is at the head of the list, the county and state tax for 1899 was \$9184 17; number of votes 1898, 738; assessor's pay, \$363 36; per capita, 50 cents, or 8 per cent. In the small township of Taylor, tax \$250 92; number votes 93; assessor's pay \$182 94; per capita \$1.43, or 53 per cent. Centre Hall, tax \$532 63; votes 125; assessor's pay \$33.60; per capita 25 cents, or 6 per cent. Millheim, tax 960 94; votes 157; assessor's pay \$83 58; per capita 53 cents, or 12 per cent. This is certainly a great inequality. Is this incompetency or a fabrication in order to extort money from the county. In either of the districts named a person would not need to travel more than from three to fifteen miles circular, and any competent person could go over the ground in a few days. The Commissioners should see that this evil is abolished before the tri-annual assessment.

### TAX PAYER.

#### Must be Reasonable.

In anticipation of the state buying forest tracts for its reservation, certain speculators have been securing fancy prices for it. Commissioner Rothrock says they will be disappointed. The commonwealth will purchase no woodland except at reasonable figures. Pennsylvania now has 75,000 acres of forest reserve, and New York owns 1,200,000 acres of woodland.

### Notice.

Patrons of the REPORTER who contemplate changing their postoffice address this spring, should notify this office of such change by card at once, that the paper may reach them regularly. Do not forget to give last address as well as the new one. By observing the above, much delay may be avoided.

### First Lien for Taxes.

A new tax law was passed by the last Legislature, and is now in force, by which a tax collector can enter his claim in the Prothonotary's office against a delinquent taxpayer and the claim becomes a first lien on the property of the delinquent. The law will be of interest to tax collectors and taxpayers.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

#### A Lively Race for the Appointment of Commissioner by Judge Love.—A Large Number of Applicants.

About a dozen Republicans are anxiously seeking the appointment to fill the vacancy in the Commissioners' office. It is a fine plum and but the only one on the tree. Some of the fellows it looks as large as a full sized sweet pumpkin, and all are near the tree to catch it when the tree is shaken, some holding hats, others sacks, still others baskets to catch it when it drops. One fellow with big mouth wide open like a depot is in hopes it will drop right in there. All have rushed to Bellefonte, while the plumbtree shaker, Judge Love, has rushed out of town, out of reach of telephones and telegraphs, lest the fruit gatherers give him knock-out drops to win the prize.

"I'll give a crisp ten dollar bill to find out where Judge Love is," said one angel, "for I can convince him that he owes his election as judge to me." Another said, "There's no use anybody botherin', I'm as sure of gettin' the appointment as the sun shines, for Love knows what big licks I put in to make him judge." It's real interesting, 'tis.

#### Want to Be Commissioner.

The vacancy in the board of commissioners, caused by the death of Mr. Riddle, has brought out the following applicants for the place:

- Thomas Fisher, Unionville.
- George Sholl, Benner twp.
- Abe Miller, College twp.
- Coke Bell, George A. Bayard, H. B. Pontius, W. H. Musser, S. B. Miller, J. H. Olliger, John A. Wagner, all of Bellefonte.

#### Bank Liable in a Swindle.

Judge Glaselle, of Minnesota, has found for the defendants in the suit of an Adrian, Minn., bank against ten farmers who had signed contracts to take stock in a horse company, and whose signatures afterwards turned up on promissory notes for \$2000 each. The swindle was extensively worked among the farmers in that section, but the Court held that the supposed contract, by which process the promissory notes were disclosed, constituted forgery, and that the bank, while an innocent purchaser, was guilty of contributory negligence under the circumstances. In some swindles disreputable banks are silent partners. The above swindle was in line with patent right, bohemian oats, and life insurance swindles, against which farmers should ever be on their guard.

#### Making Ready Sales.

Samuel Rowe, our gasoline engine agent, is meeting with success in placing engines in different parts of the valley. This week he closed a deal to place a 24-horse power plant in the mill at Pine Grove Mills, and has several other transactions under way. This power appears to be more economical and serviceable than steam engines, and in many instances are supplanting the latter power. Samuel is fully acquainted with details and has the agency for one of the best makes in the country.

#### Two Arbor Days.

Governor Stone has issued a proclamation designating Friday, the 6th day of April, and Friday, the 20th day of April, A. D., 1900, to be observed as Arbor Days throughout the Commonwealth. Two days are set apart for the observance of Arbor Day. Inasmuch as the climatic conditions may render one of these days more favorable for the purpose intended than the other, the selection is left with the citizens of the various sections of the Commonwealth.

#### Trolley Road Opened.

The electric railway between Lewistown and Reedsville was put in operation this week, and cars are now running regularly. In course of time we hope to see the line extended across the Seven mountains through Centre Hall to Bellefonte. The road is in contemplation and it may not be a decade until the line is pushed through.

#### Death of an Aged Man.

Jonathan Gramley, one of Sugar valley's oldest citizens, died Wednesday afternoon at Eastville, aged 80 years. He is survived by three daughters and one son. Funeral was held Saturday at Loganton.

#### Cost of the War to Great Britain.

The British reported casualties up to March 12, are as follows: Killed, 2418; wounded, 8747; died of disease, 1029; missing, 3483; total, 15,677.

## WASHINGTON.

### Four-day Personally-Conducted Tour via Pennsylvania R. R.

The almost unparalleled success of the tour last year has induced the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to offer the residents of Williamsport, Wilkesbarre, Sunbury, Harrisburg, and neighboring cities in Central Pennsylvania another opportunity to avail themselves of the peculiar advantages of a personally-conducted tour to Washington, and has therefore arranged for a four-day tour to the National Capital on Monday, April 2.

Train will leave Renovo at 6.40 a. m., Williamsport 8.30 a. m., Scranton 7.48 a. m., Wilkesbarre 8.45 a. m., Sunbury 10.50 a. m., Mt. Carmel 7.30 a. m., Altoona 7.15 a. m., Lancaster 10.48 a. m., Harrisburg 12.35 p. m., stopping at the principal intermediate stations and at York. Returning, special train will leave Washington at 3.30 p. m., Thursday, April 5. Passengers from points west of Williamsport, and from Dewart, Selingsgrove, Lykens, Dillsburg, Lebanon, Lancaster, Columbia, Wrightsville, and points on the Shamokin Division will use regular trains from Washington returning. All tickets will be good to return also on regular trains until Saturday, April 7, inclusive.

Round-trip rate, covering transportation, hotel accommodations from supper on date of tour until after luncheon, April 5, \$12.00 from Williamsport, \$13.00 from Wilkesbarre, \$11.70 from Sunbury, \$14.00 from Altoona, \$10.10 from Harrisburg, and proportionate rates from other stations, including stations on the Cumberland Valley Railroad north of Chambersburg. Guides to Washington will be distributed free on the train.

For itineraries, rates, tickets, and full information apply to ticket agents; E. S. Harrar, Division Ticket Agent, Williamsport, Pa.; Tourist Agent, Williamsport, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, mar15-2t

#### An Illinois Fish Story.

The fishing season being near its opening we may as well start in now to break the ice for fish stories, to waken up the knights of the rod and line. We have some good men in this place who are "fishers of men" as well as fishers of fish, and we give the following to keep them in a hopeful mood:

About the middle of last November 14 farmers of Lawrence county clubbed together and paid \$30 for the privilege of leasing Garvey's pond, in that county. In three hauls they secured 13,000 pounds of fish, and shoveled them into a wagon like coal. They got among other large ones a catfish weighing 94 pounds and a bass which tipped the scales at 9 pounds—larger than any bass ever caught in the Wabash river. A seine 100 yards long was used to drag the pond, and was hauled by four horses.

The pond contains 25 acres of water, and is fed by the rise of the Wabash river.

The Reporter may not dish up any snake stories until later when the fish are all fried.

#### G. A. R. Encampment.

It is said that the annual encampment of the department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, which will be held in Gettysburg from June 4 to 8, will be the largest attended for many years. It is expected that everyone of the 600 posts will send delegates and that many Grand Army of the Republic men besides will attend. Ample arrangements will be made to care for the immense crowd which is certain to go to Gettysburg at that time.

#### Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week:

- John B. Krebs, and Elizabeth J. Rosecrans, Loveville.
- John H. McPherson and Gertrude E. Splicher, both of Linden Hall.

It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dear ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N. Y.) dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in, he left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbors and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by J. H. Ross Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills; J. F. Smith, Centre Hall.

## LOCAL ITEMS.

### Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

**Nobody Knows But Mother.**  
Nobody knows of the work it makes To keep the home together;  
Nobody knows of the steps it takes, Nobody knows—but mother.

Nobody listens to childish woes,  
Which kisses only smother;  
Nobody's pained by naughty blows,  
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the sleepless care Bestowed on baby brother;  
Nobody knows of the tender prayers,  
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the lessons taught  
Of loving one another;  
Nobody knows of the patience sought,  
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the anxious fears  
Least darlings may not weather  
The storms of life in after years,  
Nobody knows—but mother.

Nobody kneels in the throne above  
To thank the Heavenly Father  
For that sweetest gift—a mother's love;  
Nobody can—but mother.

—H. C. Dodge.

Did't thou in lies and malice deal,  
'Gainst a fellow man;  
Then for your soul's eternal weal,  
Right the wrong ere 'nother span.

—Case.

J. P. Meckley, Bellefonte, was granted a pension, \$17.  
John Dugan, Bellefonte, was granted a pension, \$12.

Two of Mr. Bitner's children, near Tusseyville, are ill of scarlet rash.

Rev. Rearick's appointments, Sunday, March 18: Centre Hall, 7 p. m.; Spring Mills, 10 a. m.; Tusseyville, 2 p. m.

Calvin Weaver and Lawrence Page, two Rebersburg young men, have gone to Oklahoma, where they will have employ in a flouring mill.

Milton has had a scourge of typhoid fever for some weeks. During the past fortnight 69 cases have been reported. The scourge is now decreasing.

Our esteemed friend, Jonathan Musser, of Haines twp., having been ill for some time, has become more serious from another paralytic stroke a short time ago.

A house owned by J. C. Barnhart, occupied by Thomas Levell, at Curtin station, caught fire, a short time ago, and was destroyed with its contents. Loss about \$800, partly insured.

A Chapter on Children.—Dr. Humphreys' Specific Manual contains a chapter especially on the diseases of children. Mailed free. Address Humphreys' Company, Cor. William & John Sts., N. Y.

Joseph Gilliland, we, as well as his host of friends, regret to learn, is in a precarious condition from the effect of having one of his hands cut off by a planer, mentioned in the Reporter last week. All hope for his recovery.

Clinton county deaths are: Howard, son of John Boone of Greene twp., age 35 years. Annie, daughter of Simon Brungard of Nittany valley, age 25 years. Jonathan Gramley, of Sugar valley, aged 90 years.

The pews of the Centre Hill Presbyterian church were sold to Mr. Yearlick and are to be placed in an Evangelical church this side of Madisonburg, where a new church is being erected, near the present one, by one of the Evangelical branches.

A national bank, with \$200,000 capital will begin business May 1, at Lewistown, with these officers: Samuel Watt, President; R. W. Jacob, Vice President; H. J. Culbertson, James H. Mann, A. Reed Hayes and M. Mill- Eisen, Directors.

Mrs. Demos Lose, in Haines twp., was attacked by a vicious bull in the barnyard. The animal was dehorned which fact may have saved the woman's life. Her son heard her cries, and ran to her assistance. She was carried to the house unconscious but her injuries were not serious.

At Harrisburg a school teacher is on trial for placing adhesive plaster over the mouths of children who talk too much and at the wrong time. If all folks who talk too much were to have their mouths closed thus, the army of gossipers would be large and the good feeling in communities correspondingly large, and needed reconciliations grow beautifully less.

A Poser.—Charles Bradlaugh, the English free-thinker, once engaged in a discussion with a dissenting minister. He insisted that the minister should answer a question by a simple "Yes" or "No," without any circumlocution, asserting that every question could be replied to in that manner.

The reverend gentleman rose, and said: "Mr. Bradlaugh, will you allow me to ask you a question on those terms?"  
"Certainly," said Bradlaugh.  
"Then, may I ask, have you given up beating your wife?"