



WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Is there a secret understanding between the administration and the government of China? The acceptance of Secretary Hay and other members of the Cabinet of everything said to them by the Chinese Minister as gospel truth, is regarded as suspicious. Although scoffed at by the entire diplomatic corps and doubted by the public, Mr. Hay has accepted the cablegram alleged to be from Minister Conger and saying that he and the other foreign ministers in Peking were all right, on the 18th inst. but in need of help, as genuine, and the other members of the Cabinet have even gone so far as to throw bouquets at Mr. Hay by publicly saying that his getting that message was a great diplomatic triumph. Diplomatic fiddlestick! That message, whether fake or genuine, was secured by the Chinese minister for purposes of his own, and if there was any triumph about it, the credit is his. It is whispered among European diplomats in Washington that the administration has undertaken the contract of keeping the present Chinese government in power, regardless of any decision of the powers which are assembling an army in China for allied action. It is difficult to believe that Mr. McKinley has made any such agreement. His own imperial schemes are quite enough to keep him busy, without his tackling those of China.

Senator Wellington, who sometime ago declared that he would not support McKinley for reelection, is still throwing nuts to the administration which it cannot or will not crack. The Senator said, while in Washington, a day or two ago: "If the situation in the Philippines is as favorable as the administration would have us believe, there is no reason why twelve or fifteen thousand men could not be sent from there to service in China. I think that would be America's fair quota of the international force for the relief of Peking, and beyond the protection of American life and property, this country has no business to interfere with the affairs of the Chinese empire. American soldiers should never form a part of an army for the conquest of China. The European powers have sowed the wind and are now reaping the whirlwind. They have been looking for trouble in China for a long time, and now they have it. The fire they have kindled is a hot one, and this government should look well to it that American troops are not used as a catspaw for the pulling out of European chestnuts."

Secretary Root now says that the administration hopes to hand Cuba over to the Cubans within the next eight or ten months, but there are still men who believe that the island will have a string to it when it is turned over to the Cubans, and that secret schemes for annexation are being worked and encouraged by the administration for the purpose of making it appear when the time is ripe, that the demand for annexation comes from the Cubans. Gen. Wood had very little to say about annexation when he was in Washington last week, and that little was not important, although he was cornered by one newspaper man and made to acknowledge that he believed a large majority of Cubans now favored an independent government, rather than the annexation. The administration knows that its attitude towards Cuba is being closely watched by the people, and that any act which even seems to imply that good faith would not be kept with the Cubans, would make thousands of anti-McKinley votes. If there is to be any trickery, it will be carefully concealed until after election.

It seems to be a little early in the campaign for Boss Hanna's henchmen to be putting out fakes, but all the same they are doing it. Several men known to be close to Hanna have been filling up Washington newspaper men with stories about how worried the "old man" was because of the refusal of some of the heaviest contributors to his campaign fund four years ago to give a cent this year, and of his fear that the National Committee would have to skip its campaign plans for lack of money. The object of these stories is to create the impression among the Democrats that the Republicans are going to be short of campaign money this year. It is, of course, absolute tommyrot. Hanna spent \$8,000,000 four years ago, and he expects to spend quite as much or more this year, and he knows just where to go to get it. If his victims do not come down without squeezing, he knows exactly how hard to squeeze them to get what he wants. He must think the Democrats are easily gulled indeed, if he thinks it possible to make them believe that the favored trusts which have profited so largely by Hanna legislation, will allow the Hanna Committee to lack money to buy another election.

GENERAL CROP REPORTS.

Corn Acreage Greatly Increased.—Wheat Average Below Normal.

The season of the year is here when a comparatively correct estimate of the crop conditions can be made. The northwestern states have been visited by a special agent of the department within the last ten days and the reports of the department's regular correspondents are fully confirmed. In Minnesota and North-Dakota the condition of oats, barley, rye, pastures, and meadow lands is, like that of spring wheat, the lowest on record. The report given herewith should be carefully read by all interested in the prices of the main crops of the farms.

The returns on the acreage of corn planted indicate an increase of about 1,200,000 acres, or 1.5 per cent. over the acreage harvested last year. Of the 22 states having one million acres or upward in corn in 1899, all but Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kansas show an increased acreage, and the total decrease in the five states named is less than 600,000 acres. The increase in acreage is, in the main, well distributed, there being only ten states and territories out of the 45 reporting that have a larger acreage planted than was harvested last year. The average condition of the growing corn is 89.5, compared with 86.5 July 1, 1899; 90.5 at the corresponding date in 1898, and a ten-year average of 90.7. The condition in Iowa is 102, in Missouri 101, in Kansas and Nebraska 93, in Illinois 92, and in Indiana 89, Iowa being 10, Missouri 12, Kansas and Nebraska 1, and Illinois 2 points above their respective ten-year averages.

The condition of winter wheat shows a further decline during June, being 80.8 on July 1, compared with 82.7 on July 1 1899, 85.7 at the corresponding date in 1898, and a ten-year average of 79.8. All the important winter wheat states except Pennsylvania, Texas and Tennessee share in this impairment of condition, Ohio and Indiana falling to 25 and Michigan to 40.

The average condition of spring wheat is 55.2, compared with 87.3 one month ago, 91.7 on July 1, 1899, 95 at the corresponding date in 1898, and a ten-year average of 89.5. The condition in Minnesota has fallen to 48, in South-Dakota to 44, and in North-Dakota to 30, these figures being 44, 45 and 60 points respectively below the ten-year averages for the states named.

The condition of spring and winter wheat combined on July 1 was 69.8, against 82.2 on July 1, 1899, and 89.4 at the corresponding date in 1898. Wheat remaining in the hands of farmers July 1 is estimated at about 51,000,000 bushels, or the equivalent of 9.3 per cent. of the crop of 1899.

Average condition of oat crop is 85.5 compared with 91.7 one month ago, 90 on July 1, 1899, 92.8 at the corresponding date in 1898, and a ten-year average of 87.3.

Average condition of barley is 76.3, against 86.2 one month ago, 92 on July 1, 1899, 85.7 at the corresponding date in 1898, and a ten-year average of 88.3. All the principal barley states show a decline during the month, and their averages of condition are all below their respective ten-year averages.

There is an indicated increase of some 30,000 acres, or 1.2 per cent., in the acreage in potatoes, with a condition on July 1 of 91.3, compared with a ten-year average of 93.2.

Reports on the hay crop are in the main unfavorable, and there are few important grazing states in which the condition of pastures is not considerably below the ten-year average.

While there has been a general decline in the condition of apples, almost every important apple-growing state has the promise of more than an average crop. This is also true of the peaches and grapes.

The local condition of crops not harvested are up to the average with favorable weather through this month and August the corn crop would be likely to be first class. Oats are a full crop, with but a few exceptions. Barley the same. Wheat was far below the average, when not an entire failure.

RAINS GIVE INDIA RELIEF.
At Bombay the crops are reported above the average. At Tonkan, in the Carnatic and in the eastern Deccan they are promising. Elsewhere, south of Nerbudda and north of Nerbudda, at Gujrat, Kathiawar and Baroda, the rainfall has been insufficient.

There has been little sowing except in a few places. It will be impossible to continue sowing for food crops after August 1. The sowing of cotton will continue until August 15.

The prospects at Bedar are encouraging. At Rajputana the rainfall has generally been sufficient for agricultural purposes, save in a few sections, where the heavy mortality of cattle has been felt.

The agricultural prospects in Central India are generally satisfactory, and while more rain is needed in Mysore and other provinces, no distress is reported.

THE CENTRE REPORTER

CHANGES HANDS.

Mr. Kurtz Retires After Many Years of Editorial Work. S W Smith Becomes Both the Editor and Owner.

With this issue the undersigned closes his connection with the CENTRE REPORTER. Nigh fifty years have been pleasantly spent by us in the publishing of the same, and it is a source of pride to know that our humble efforts in that period have gained for the REPORTER a state reputation, winning the warmest approval and friendship of scores of prominent gentlemen of the state and the almost universal respect of the citizens of Centre county, as an ever true champion of all that pertained to the general good, for the purity of its columns, and a strict adherence to Truth and Right. As a Democratic journal the REPORTER has been consistent, yet fair to the opposite party. It has made some history for itself, and left its impress for good upon the county.

Many of its readers have been our patrons for a quarter and others for a half century, and at no time has it given just cause for enmity, of which this fidelity of its patrons is the evidence. In the past years the REPORTER has been a welcome visitor in almost every Centre Hall family, to this date.

For the town the REPORTER has been a benefactor—all its earnings, ninety-five per cent. from outside support, were liberally spent for enterprises and improvements in Centre Hall. In response to the unanimous appeal of the citizens some twenty-five years ago, the REPORTER erected a fine water plant; it erected two mills, one a large first-class roller mill, this being burned a few years later, a second mill was erected, and in addition some half dozen fine dwellings. To railroad, churches, and in aid of minor enterprises, the REPORTER donated upwards of five thousand dollars, and the only regret we feel is, that the REPORTER was not possessed of greater means to do greater good.

In stepping from the editorial tripod of the REPORTER we only do so to enter a broader field in which to work.

Thanks to our friends and patrons for their uniform kindness and support in all these years.

FRED KURTZ.

Notice:—All dues on REPORTER, up to July 1, 1900, to be paid to the address of FRED KURTZ, Centre Hall, Pa.

Dear Reader:

With this issue of the CENTRE REPORTER the writer assumes complete control and becomes absolute owner of this journal. The former editor and his assistant relinquished all claim to the CENTRE REPORTER Monday noon of this week.

It is the intention of the present editor, and that intention will be put into operation, to publish the CENTRE REPORTER in the social, moral and political interests of the people of Centre county, and in doing so he is firm in his belief that the paper will measure up to the highest standard of journalism.

The proper sphere of a newspaper, however humble, is to aid in building up the institutions already founded within its bailiwick and encourage all movements proposed, public and private, that tend toward the betterment of the community. The chief aim of this journal is, therefore, to build up, not tear down and destroy; to defend, not assault; to harmonize, not sow discord.

It will be the policy of the CENTRE REPORTER to recognize every commendable act done by both its friends and foes—political and personal. It will throw bouquets to all deserving quarters while they can yet be appreciated, that is, during life, and at death lay garlands.

In politics the CENTRE REPORTER will be unreservedly Democratic. That political faith is instilled into its editor by birth and mature choice. This journal will at no time be identified with any political faction of the Democratic party that may arise; it will not be used to advance a particular clique or endeavor to punish another. Party harmony will always be advocated, and the principles of the Democratic party as laid down by its founders and interpreted by its leaders will be adhered to positively, absolutely, constantly.

The continued patronage of the present patrons of the CENTRE REPORTER is earnestly sought as well as that of all others. The success of a newspaper, like all other business, depends largely upon the support of the community. Their interests are identical.

In order to largely increase the circulation of the CENTRE REPORTER the subscription price has been reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per year, with the proviso that it be paid in advance.

The writer thanks those who have already responded to the above terms by promptly paying subscriptions in advance as well as those who are using the advertising columns of the CENTRE REPORTER. Thanks are also offered in advance for any favors that may come this way.

S. W. SMITH.

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week:
Ira G. Lucas and Agnes S. Graham, both of Snow Shoe.

John S. Krape, of Spring Mills, and Bessie Bell Mooney, of Aaronsburg.

Clyde B. Bitner and Estella B. Spangler, both of Blanchard.

James Harry Floray, of Potter township, and Lizzie Ann Maize, of Millheim.

F. E. Arney offers for sale a second hand up to date baby carriage, as good as new, at a very low figure.

Freak of Lightning.

Seeking shelter with his team under a tree during a severe electrical storm last week, Frank Longenbarger, employed on a farm in White Deer Valley, was struck and had his clothing half torn off by a bolt of lightning that shattered the tree. Splintered portions of the tree fell on Longenbarger as he lay unconscious on the ground, cutting and bruising him terribly. Both horses were felled by the bolt—and one had a leg broken and had to be killed.

Charles N. Stuart, of Peale, Clearfield county, is the guest of Samuel Snyder.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

Random Pick-ups.—The Grandest Days of Old Centre.

Just about all Centre county has donned its best duds in honor of the County Centennial. Folks are in from the hills and valleys, from the mountains and gaps, and will return to their homes pleased with having had the finest treat of their lives and never to be forgotten, and knowing what a great, grand county they are living in.

THE INDIAN FORTS.

These much talked of forts were three in number and all in Penns valley. The main fort was erected by General Potter, on an eminence about 15 rods north of the Old Fort hotel. It was a stockade fort, which had a house in the centre for families of settlers in times of great danger from Indian incursions, when all settlers in the valley would flee to this fort for safety.

Between the house and the stockade walls the space was used for stabling the horses and cattle of the refugees. The family of a settler, at that time had only a cow and horse as answering all their needs. The settlers were few and the number of live stock was between 40 and 50.

A stockade passage, led from the fort to the spring at the foot of the hill a distance of some 10 rods. This passage was a protection in going to and from the spring for water in times when Indians were prowling about and watching from behind trees for a chance to get a shot at any one venturing outside the fort.

The two smaller forts were farther east in the valley. One was on Penns creek near Kryder's mill some 2 miles west of Coburn.

The other small fort was in Haines township on a small stream near Hubbers.

Whenever there was danger of Indians entering the valley, word was hastily sent to the settlers by the commanders from posts along the Susquehanna.

COAL MIX.

An Explanation of the Reasons Given on Hand.

[A communication fully explaining why the Potter school directors gave the contract for furnishing its coal to Mr. Bradford is on hand, but too late for this week. The following announcement from Mr. Slack is significant.—Ed.]

CENTRE HALL, PA., JULY 24, '00
S. W. Smith, Ed. Reporter:—In reply to the "Tax Payer" of Potter township, who wishes to know why W. F. Bradford was given the contract to furnish the coal for the township instead of Mr. Ocker, let me say that if he wants any explanation he can attend a meeting of the board on Saturday evening, July 28th, at Centre Hill.
C. W. SLACK, Secretary.

Great Year for Apples.

"The peach crop in this state will be one of the largest in years," said Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Martin. "We shall not have to go out of Pennsylvania to supply the home market. But the great fruit crop in Pennsylvania this year," continued Mr. Martin, "will be the apple crop, for which this state is justly celebrated. Reports from all the apple growing counties, and there are a great many of them, show that the trees will bear unusually heavy this season. The wheat crop will be a very poor one this year. In some of the wheat growing counties in this part of the state the farmers will not take the trouble to harvest the grain, which is almost worthless. Two causes contribute to the failure of the crop, one being the cold spring, and the wheat fly. You can pass through fields in Cumberland, Lancaster, Adams and other counties in this section of the state and the devastation of the fly will be apparent to even the most casual observer."

Ten Million of Fighters.

The adjutant general's annual statement of the fighting force of the United States shows that we have over 100,000 drilled men in our militia organizations, and that there are upwards of 10,000,000 men in the country capable of bearing arms. The number indicated would make a greater army than has ever been marshalled within historic times, and one against which nothing could stand in opposition; but while it takes men to make an army the fact that we have so many men is not a measure of our fighting capacity. At this very moment we are hard put to, to get men enough to send to China to bear our part in compelling redress for the outrages to our representatives and citizens.

Latest advices from Washington say that the officials still believe that the ministers are safe.

A full report of the centennial will be given next week.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Mrs. John Huff, of Lamar, mother of Mrs. F. M. Crawford, is paying the latter a visit.

John Booser, of Osceola, called at the office to-day. Also Mr. Bibbhaus, of Philadelphia.

The seventeen year locust will not be due until 1902, having been here in 1851, 1868 and 1885.

A. J. Aikens, of Harrisburg, father of Rev. Aikens, of Pine Grove Mills, is visiting the latter.

Miss Estle Ocker, daughter of coal dealer G. W. Ocker, returned from a brief visit to Harrisburg.

A top buggy, with leather quarters, regular price \$65.00 is offered for \$55.00; all right in every respect. W. W. Boob, Centre Hall, Pa.

Frank Shutt, blacksmith at Old Fort, purchased the house and lot of B. D. Brisbin on Hoffer street, near the foundry, and expects to occupy the same some time in the future.

Samuel Granley, of Penn Hall, will move his saw mill this week to the tract recently purchased by Messrs. Homan and Shaffer from ex-Prothonotary Smith. This tract is on what is commonly known as the George Krape farm.

Stephen Snore, of Coatsville, while asleep, walked out of the second story window of his home, breaking his collar bone and injuring himself internally. He must have been heard a hearing or he could have heard himself.

In the central provinces excellent rains have prevailed lately. Sowing for food products is being actively prosecuted. If the monsoon continues favorable within the cultivated area crops will fall short only at Nagpur and Chattisgard.

During the building of the wall of A. P. Krape's new residence by J. R. Strong the busy mason, the town's all around farmer and teamster Chas. A. Arney, like the Irishman carrying the brick to the top of the building, had nothing to do but haul the stone from the mountain.

Every stranger who enters the White House is counted by an automatic register. The instrument is held in the hand of one of the watchmen stationed at the door, and for every visitor he pushes the button. Congressmen, Senators, members of the Cabinet and newspaper men are not counted.

Samuel Purcell, of Trenton, N. J., was talking with a grocer near his home recently when he suddenly threw his hands to his eyes and exclaimed: "Oh, everything's all dark! I cannot see!" The unfortunate man was taken to his home, and a physician was called, but he could give no relief, nor hold out any hope that Purcell's sight would return.

Russia, it is reported, is preparing to make a descent on Northern China. Burn Murdoch, the agent of Pritchard Morgan, M. P., in Korea, who has just reached London after a 60-day journey, by way of Vladivostok, over the Trans-Siberian railway to Moscow, says Russia is actively mobilizing troops in Central Russia, East and West Siberia, and that the Trans-Siberian railway is conveying close to 300,000 men to Manchuria or its borders.

A farm team belonging to George Bradford ran away from his barn Thursday of last week, and almost collided with the Millheim band wagon that just happened to be going by. John Clark, who played the tenor drum on that day and who is blind, heard the noise and jumped from the wagon almost in front of the runaway team. A serious accident was narrowly averted.

Hon. M. H. Kulp, head of the lumber firm of M. H. Culp & Co., consummated an important deal with the Pardee and a Montgomery county estate, whereby the company secures 5,000 acres of virgin timber land in Union, Clinton and Lycoming counties. The price paid is about \$40,000. Branch roads will be built into the newly acquired land and its acquisition extends the life of the lumber industry several years for the firm in that section.

One of the long needed Boro improvements was effected last week. The old brick yard excavation on Locust street has been filled through the liberality of the two adjoining property owners, Messrs. W. B. Mingle and W. Rearick. By an arrangement with the council these two gentlemen had the work done practically at their own expense and with a trifle of cost. This work necessitated the removal of the Boro prison or "lock up", which has fortunately been used but once or twice in its history. This building, now fronts on the same street but on the south side instead of in the center.