

The Centre Democrat.



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TERMS: \$1.50 per ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

VOL. 8.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1886.

NO. 11

The Centre Democrat.

Terms \$1.50 per ANNUM IN ADVANCE

FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

WE are indebted to that veteran journalist, Henry B. Stanton, for a copy of his "Random Recollections." For sixty years Mr. Stanton has been connected with American journalism, and during that long period came in contact with most of the great statesmen, soldiers, ministers, actors and editors who were contemporary with him much of this to be found in his little work. Mr. Stanton was a pronounced, indeed before the war was called a virulent abolitionist, and had to run the gauntlet of mobs frequently. The book is a valuable contribution to the biographical literature of days before the war.

THE Claus Spreckles sugar monopoly which has grown to gigantic proportions is one of the concerns that should be lopped off by Congress without further delay. Hawaiian sugar under the treaty with that Island comes in duty free. The Claus Spreckles company have a monopoly of all the sugar manufactured and practically control the Hawaiian out put and rule the market on the Pacific coast. While the sugar comes in free, it costs the consumer in San Francisco from 1 1/2 to 2 cents per pound more than it costs the consumer in Chicago. That the Hawaiian sugar manufacturer should sell his sugar in our own markets to the detriment of our own manufacturers is bad enough but that he should sell it without paying any import duty on it is outrageous. Claus Spreckles can manufacture his sugar at much less cost than can the Texas or Louisiana manufacturer because all his labor is coolie. The duty free sugar of Sir Claus spreckles should be 3 cents per pound cheaper in San Francisco than the duty paid sugars of the East and yet they are on an average two cents higher. Sir Claus pockets over five millions each year in the shape of duty on sugar which he does not pay.

ONE remarkable feature about the strikes maintained by organized labor throughout the country is that the strikers have kept within the bounds of the law. Labor is simply asking for its just and fair share of the profits of business. That it has not received, and is not now receiving, a fair remuneration for its work, no one can dispute. The conflict is not between organized labor and organized capital as such, but between organized labor at starvation wages, and corporate and syndicate greed. The desire of those employing labor to grow rich in a few years blinds them in many instances to the demands of their employees, and the result is that labor suffers long, and finally resists. Much of the trouble throughout the country is due to the avariciousness of railroads. They control all the industries of the country, and not until the people through their government exercise the same control over railroads that is exercised over the postal department, will labor receive its fair proportion of profits, or the industries of the country be free from strikes and discrimination. All will concede that 14 or 16 hours per day is too long for a man to labor for two dollars, or that 40 cents is too little for mining a ton of coal. That labor is restless is not surprising. The laborer who toils ten hours for a dollar, sees his employer and his family spending fifty or sixty dollars a day for luxuries wrung from unrequited labor, and he marvels that things are so unevenly distributed. Yet he would be perfectly content were he earning a competence for himself and his little family. All that the American laborer asks is a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, and he should have it.

—Subscribe for the DEMOCRAT.

Syndicate Infamy.

THE Soldiers' Orphans' Schools, the noblest charity of modern times in its conception, turns out to be the colossal infamy of the age. The outrages pictured by Dickens are put to shame, and the vivid word pictures which transfixed one with horror at the cruelties practiced by Squeers, sink into insignificance and pale before the revelations of Gov. Pattison. If the Mt. Joy school was a stench in the nostrils of Pennsylvanians, the Mercer school is a running sore, a moral and physical leprosy, beyond endurance. With all the time for preparation which the syndicate authorities have had, and which has been diligently employed, evidence enough to damn the whole management has been found. Evidence so revolting in its details that it almost passes credence, has been obtained by Gov. Pattison and Attorney-General Cassidy. In the face of the *Record's* developments and of the evidence of those investigating these schools, Sup't Higbee rushed into the newspapers in defense of everybody and everything connected with the schools. The plain, imperative duty of Dr. Higbee to himself and to the state, is to tender his resignation. His usefulness for the future is entirely destroyed. Not even the public schools can be trusted to the tender mercies of the Superintendent. As for the syndicate which has grown rich at the expense of the state in the traffic of its wards, punishment, swift and sure, should be meted out to it and its creatures. Let justice be done the helpless orphans of the state.

Looking for Renomination.

Member of Assembly Woodward is without a doubt laying his plans for a renomination by the Democrats, and Representative Rhone also has a longing in that direction. As it has been the Democratic custom of Centre county to give a member two terms, both the above named gentlemen are counting upon the general support of their party. However, the thing isn't so sure for either, and it might be well for both to be on the alert. If the county must send two Democrats to Harrisburg, give us Woodward and Rhone. So far as the other portion of the county ticket is concerned, the Democratic machine intends to grind out its own material and which is to serve its own purpose. The ring has learned to know that the "faithful ones" will abide by anything. There will, however, be some music in the air if the work isn't done squarely.—*Gazette*.

The *Gazette* pays a well-deserved compliment to our present excellent members of Assembly, Messrs. Woodward and Rhone, when it voluntarily concedes the propriety and probability of their renomination. Both these gentlemen served well and faithfully; were always at their posts, and earnest in their work. It is no disparagement to any of their predecessors to say that the county has not been more worthily represented for many years, and we presume the *Gazette* is right, for once, in predicting their renomination and re-election.

The point we wish to make, however, is that this is a matter for the Democrats to attend to, and that its consideration need not cause any sleeplessness upon the part of our contemporary, nor its "phenomenal" Republican constituency. The Democratic County Convention, which is the only authority upon this subject, will look after this and every "portion of the county ticket" in due time, and without any "machine work" about it; and the *Gazette* may confine itself to its fore-ordained task of nominating General Beaver as the Republican candidate for Governor, with the assurance that whosoever the Democrats nominate, then will they also elect, the *Phenomenal* to the contrary notwithstanding. We submit that the *Phenomenal* is not only a little previous, in rendering its linen thus early over Democratic nominations, but that it will have its hands fully occupied if it faithfully shinneys on its own side.

Somerset is to have a \$12,000 temperance hotel.

THE young Senator from West Virginia took the Vermont bull by the horns and Edmunds is now quite harmless. Mr. Kenna's argument was masterly and brought the discussion down to a question of what constitutes private and official papers. If Mr. Edmunds cited authorities Mr. Kenna cited authorities too. And one in particular that was quite unexpected to the Vermonters. James G. Blain in the second volume of his history told the truth in regard to suspension from office and uncovered the workings of the Republican Senate during Johnston's administration and during the administration of President Grant. Senator Kenna was well fortified in his position by precedents running back to the Deluge. If the President is to have any individuality any personal identity apart from the Senate he must be allowed to determine for himself what are private and what are official papers. And as the country holds him alone responsible for the conduct of his office he must protect his prerogatives from the encroachments of the American House of Lords.

Further Trial of the Air Telegraph.

THE trial of the air telegraph the other day, on the St. Paul Railroad, seems to have been no less successful than its previous test on the Staten Island road. Its object is that of sending messages between moving trains and fixed stations without the use of any wire attached to the cars or the track. The capacity of the induction coil for throwing electric sparks a foot or two has long been known; but Edison found he could throw a long electric current fifty feet. This discovery was then combined with kindred labors of Messrs. Gilliland and W. W. Smith, and at length Edison made the current leap 580 feet, so that it could easily reach the ordinary wires established on poles along the roadbeds of railways. The invention is usually called the railway telegraph, since it is the sending of messages anywhere through the atmosphere; indeed, by the use of a balloon kite, coated with tin foil, soaring far above a vessel's deck and controlled by a fine wire, he expects soon to enable ships, without pausing to exchange messages of any length when miles apart at sea, and in war many important uses of the air telegraph are obvious. Meanwhile its immediate function in railway traffic for promptly and safely giving orders to move freight trains on sidings between stations, which have no fixed schedule, but must wait till made up, and in counteracting the delays and dangers of accidents, snow blockades and fogs, is strongly urged. Next and soon will come, according to Mr. Edison, the exchange of information between the business house and the agent or partner on the train; the pursuit of the criminal on the train itself, without giving him a chance to drop off at a slackening of speed; and the news writer's sending of the information he has already gathered to the editor, even while he hurries on the train from one town to another.—*Post*.

PITTSBURGH, March 14.—The mutilated remains of a man with his throat cut from ear to ear were found laying on the tracks of the Allegheny Valley railroad near Rockland station last night by the engineer of a freight train. By papers found on the body it was identified as the remains of a boilermaker named Casey, who lived at Franklin, Pa. It is supposed he was robbed and murdered and then placed on the rails to be run over.

—The greatest champion middle-weight fight on record took place at a point in West Chester county, N. Y., near the eastern border of the state on Sunday, March 14th, between John L. Blanche of Boston, and Jack Dempsey of New York. Dempsey was declared the winner after thirteen rounds of fighting. Both were badly used up.

Infamy's Climax.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS BEING STARVED AT MERCER.

MERCER, Pa., March 15.—When the governor and Attorney-General reached the Soldiers' Orphans' School here to-day they naturally expected that everything would be in good condition and the officials ready to receive them. An hour's investigation, however, proved that while some matters had been corrected, numerous evils continue to exist. There had been made a poor attempt to clean up about the rickety old buildings and give a borrowed air of comfort to the surroundings. Here and there evidences of a recent application of the scrubbing brush were noticeable, and in some parts of the building the bed clothing had been changed, so as to give the casual visitor a false impression of cleanliness.

The Principal and Matron assured the Governor that the regular bath tub had been used as late as Saturday, but the appearance of the bath room did not bear out that pretense. There are but two tubs in the room. One of them was found to be too much cracked to hold water, and the other showed a quantity of dirt that must have been several days accumulating. Some of the boys and girls were not provided with full regulation suits. The dormitories were greatly overcrowded. A number of children sleep three in a bed, and no bed has less than two occupants, even where the mattresses were but 33 inches wide. The sheets and bolsters on some of the beds were so filthy that the Attorney General declared they were worse than at Mount Joy. To cap the climax a petition was handed to the Governor, signed by more than fifty boys, stating that they had not had enough to eat and asking for relief. Much of the clothing of the scholars was found to be very shabby, and a room was revealed containing sufficient absolutely worthless old clothing to breed a pestilence. It was the intention to have this lot of worn out rags washed and patched and issued to new comers and smaller children as new clothing. The investigation here will be continued during to-morrow, as new and startling revelations are being made at almost every step.

It has been discovered that a vast political and ring influence has been keeping the public ignorance. Witnesses, both boys and girls, who have been before the committee, state that the food is very poor and often so stale and full of worms that many were sickened at the sight, but they did not complain for fear of punishment. The Hammer boys and others were recently so horribly beaten by the principal with white thorn rods that they lay in the infirmary.

The Momeyer girls, who say they were not allowed to wear shawls, suffered from cold on account of the tumble down buildings. Undue familiarity between the sexes was winked at. No letters containing complaints were ever allowed to leave the institution, and the writers were subject to cruel hazing and denounced as tattlers.—*Patriot*.

WHEN George Miller, the horse thief, was arrested by Officer Beegle he had in his possession a quantity of dress goods and handkerchiefs and several razors. Beegle retained this property, believing that it had been stolen. His surmise proved to be correct. A few days before Miller's arrest the residence of Horace Holmer, Monroe township, was entered and these goods were carried off. Mrs. Holmer identified the goods on Monday and took them home. Mr. Holmer says he will make information against Miller and have him arrested as soon as his term in the penitentiary expires. As a Franklin county man is also awaiting Miller's release to prosecute him on a charge of horse stealing, it is likely the penitentiary will be this fellow's postoffice address for many years.—*Bedford Gazette*.

A Most Revolting Crime.

KANSAS CITY, March 9.—Osgood Mission, Kansas, special says: One of the most horrible murders ever known in this country was perpetrated yesterday morning near this place. Mr. Mendell living thirteen miles northwest of town was awakened about three o'clock by a scream. He went to the door and was met by Willie Sells, son of a neighbor J. W. Sells. The boy cried out: Mr. Mendell a man is at our house with a hatchet and has hurt father and mother.' Mendell went with the boy, arousing Mr. Rice, another neighbor, on the way. Upon reaching Sells' house a most horrible sight met their eyes. In a bed in the north room lay Walter, Willie's eldest brother and bed-fellow, aged 19, with his throat cut and the entire top of his head chopped off, exposing his brains, and his left eye hanging upon his cheek. Passing into the main room where a light was burning, they stumbled over the prostrate form of Mr. Sells, his head crushed and almost severed from his body.

A CHASTLY SCENE.

Near by lay Mrs. Sells, a lady of forty-three years, her head mashed and a fearful gash in her throat. On the bed in a corner of the room lay Ina, Willie's sister, aged 14, killed in the same manner as the other three. Lying near Mrs. Sells' head was a bloody butcher knife and on a chair a hatchet matted with hair and blood. The boy said he had been awakened by some thing looking up saw a low, heavy-set man standing in the doorway. This man stepped in and reaching over Willie, struck Walter, who lay on the back of the bed. Willie jumped out of bed dressed while the man was still in the room. The man rushed out of one door while Willie rushed out of another and started up the road on a run, Willie after him. A short distance off stood a man on horseback, holding another horse, upon which the man vaulted and both made off. Willie then went off to Mr. Mendell's. After the bodies had been discovered Rice took Willie home with him, where he slept soundly until morning.

THE CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.

The Coroner's investigation brought fourth much from the boy. Suspicion rested upon him and he was put on the stand. He swore he had not washed his hands since the murder, but an inspection showed that while his hands and wrists were clean, there was a watermark above, while his forearms were deeply encrusted with blood; which appeared to have spurted up his sleeves. Around his finger nails too was blood; upon removing his pants his drawers were seen to be saturated with spattered blood, and his bare feet were covered with blood. His feet fitted all the bloody foot marks to be found. The boy stoutly denies being the murderer and maintained a bold front throughout. The conclusion of the inquest was postponed until today. The boy was smuggled into a buggy by the police and driven to the jail in Erie for fear of lynching, which appeared imminent. On the way to Erie, he said: Those fellows tried to get me to say that I did it, but I thought it would be best not to admit. There is hardly a doubt that the boy committed the dreadful crime. It is shown that Sells had in his pocket book \$10 in gold and \$170 in bills, which were not disturbed, besides three watches.

A Quartette of Wives.

A man named F. W. Kappell was arrested at Cincinnati in the middle of last January and sent to Des Moines, Iowa, on a requisition, where he is now in jail awaiting his trial for bigamy, in having married Miss Sallie Spencer, it being proved that he had a wife living near Fort Wayne, Indiana. At the time of his arrest testimony proved that he also had a wife in Canada, and had served a term for bigamy in a Dominion prison, so the girl whom he married last fall is neither maid, wife nor widow. It is now discovered that he has still another nuptial partner. A letter was received Wednesday by Mayor Smith, of Cincinnati, from Ravenna inquiring about the prisoner, and adding that there is another Mrs. E. W. Kappell in that place, making four Mrs. Kappells so far. The much married man is, it is alleged, connected with the firm of Rothschild, Josephs & Co., corset makers, of Chicago, so he may have a matrimonial connection or two in the Phoenix city.

Washington Letter.

Washington D. C. March 15, 1886. The brilliant social season of '86 terminated with advent of Ash Wednesday, and the lenten season of comparative quiet in the fashionable world has commenced. Although no large entertainments will be given, it is not likely that the present stagnation in society will continue during the whole forty days of lent. The monotony will be relieved by numerous quiet luncheon and dinner parties.

The entertainment given by President Cleveland on Tuesday evening is generally conceded to have been not only the most brilliant, but the largest and best conducted of any of the numerous receptions held at the White House during recent years. The invitations were issued in such a way that no branch of the government service, and no one connected with the service could complain that they had not been made welcome. Notwithstanding the perfect arrangements which had been made to accommodate those within the building, the crush upon the outside was enormous. The entrances to the Executive Mansion were almost inaccessible, a double row of carriages lining the drives. Pedestrians were more fortunate however and were able to drop into line without delays incident to carriage arrival.

The President sent to the Senate on Wednesday his first veto message. It was of a bill for the relief of John H. McBlair, who was appointed first lieutenant in the regular army in 1861, and shortly afterwards was found to be incapacitated for service and was retired from the army. The President subsequently revoked the order and placed him upon the retired list, and upon his presenting a claim for longevity pay, the question as to whether he had been legally restored to the army was referred to the Court of Claims, and that court decided that he had not been legally restored. He then had a bill introduced in Congress to suspend the law regulating appointments, and allow the President to appoint him to be first lieutenant and place him upon the retired list. Although the case is one of little importance, it is gravely treated by the President as though it concerned the most important public questions. During his term of office as Governor of New York Mr. Cleveland sent to the legislature about one hundred and fifty veto messages, and it is thought that the message of Wednesday last is but the first of a series soon to follow.

On Friday last a hearing was had before the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads in behalf of a bill to establish postal savings banks. The measure is advocated by the charity organization societies of twenty-two States.

A perfectly working model of Mr. Eads' proposed ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec has been placed upon exhibition in the Capitol, and is attracting a great deal of attention, not only from the members of the committee who have the bill under consideration, but also from the general public. The model was built at a cost of upwards of twelve thousand dollars. It is complete in all of its details, including cars, turn-tables, floating dock, &c., and clearly demonstrates the practicability of Mr. Eads' plan of transferring vessels across the isthmus by the "overland route."

Commissioner Colman, of the Department of Agriculture, has received an unfavorable report from the government tea farm at Summerville, S. C. The severe winter has stripped the plants of their foliage, with the exception of a single variety, which appears to withstand the cold better than the others, and from which no leaves have fallen. The Commissioner is in favor of abandoning the experiments in tea culture.

Congressman Hahn Dead.

WASHINGTON March 15.—The flag were flying at half-mast over both ends of the Capitol to-day—over the Senate for the late Senator Miller and over the House for Representative Michael Hahn, of Louisiana, who died during the night at Willard's. The hotel fireman went to his room about 6 o'clock this morning and found Mr. Hahn lying on the floor in a pool of blood. The marks of blood in his bed and about the room indicated that he was attacked with a hemorrhage in bed; that he got out of bed and supported himself against the mantels. Then he appears to have fallen over backward, and was found lying at full length near the dressing-case. It is not known at what time he died. When found his mouth was full of blood.