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The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - EDITOR.

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Mifflin county, is shipping walnut logs to Europe.

It is reported that the Pennsylvania railroad has taken up the fight for the Grangers' beef bill. Those who are supposed to be representing the railroad say the company can transport cattle with much more profit than dressed beef, and the company is therefore interested in the passage of the measure shutting out the Chicago dressed beef people.

THE Maine farmers are making desperate efforts in the Legislature to effect the repeal of that clause in the liquor law which prohibits the manufacture of the juice of the apple. This is a pointer for our own Legislators. Is the cider clause to go into our own law? If so, what are the farmers to do with their surplus of apples. Then again, there is any amount of solid headache in a gallon of hard cider.

EX-SENATOR William A. Wallace is reported, as saying in Washington a few days ago: "I am down here on private business," he said to-night. "There is no politics in my business. I am out of politics and I mean to stay out. I am not making it a business to correct newspaper surmises, and for that reason I have not denied the story heretofore that I will re-enter politics. I propose to devote my time to business interests. If I were contemplating a return to political life this would be a very inopportune time on threshold of a Republican administration. I am not going into politics, but I am still a Democrat."

KANSAS rolls up the biggest Republican majority of any of the states, while Texas the next State south, rolls up the biggest Democratic majority. Kansas has a state debt of \$800,000, while Texas has a surplus in her treasury of \$1,000,000. Kansas has the poorest school system of any of the states, while Texas ranks only second in its number of institutions of learning to any of the States of the Union. Wages in Kansas average \$15 50 per month. Wages in Texas average \$27 20 per month. Is there any moral to be drawn from a comparison of the two states? There certainly is. It means that a free, liberal, and enlightened government has made of Texas, a prosperous, happy and intelligent State.

It means also that Kansas, like Iowa, is pressed to the earth with a load of debt and that its government like Iowa's also, is administered by a set of bigoted, puritanical cranks.

ATTORNEY GENERAL KIRKPATRICK has published an opinion endorsing the construction of the law by Superintendent Higbee, paying teachers for their time while attending the County Teachers' institute. The substance of the opinion is that teachers are entitled to compensation for Institute attendance in addition to their regular wages, according to their per diem pay for actual pay, but compensation as authorized by the act of Assembly cannot lawfully exceed \$2 a day, which is the maximum allowance provided by the Act. The time of attendance cannot be reported and credited as part of the 20 days' actual teaching required to constitute a school month, but in addition thereto. Teachers who are employed for the current term, but who have not begun teaching, are to be paid by the district employing them, for their time attending the Institute, the same as teachers whose schools are in operation.

"News venders, recorders, reporters, historians, missionaries are by occupation—and citizens with the equal, inalienable rights of our fellow-citizens, and none have broader opportunities or brighter encouragement to industrious usefulness than we. What more and better we may become than writers and printers and salesmen of current events; what happy deeds we may join to the words that we weave in the fashions that are our familiar modes; what part may be ours in the acts that, however told, are of imperishable good report, depend upon the tasks that our heads and hearts and hands find to do—the lamps that guide our footsteps and the stars under whose light we came into the world."—*Murat Halstead.*

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

NEWS ITEMS AS GATHERED BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Will We Have War With Germany—Cleveland's Popularity—Republicans Want a Tariff Compromise.

"Is there really danger of a war with Germany?" I asked one of the leading members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. "Yes, I think there is," was the reply given in a very thoughtful, deliberate tone. "Do you think that Secretary Bayard is in any way to blame for the present condition of affairs?" I then asked.

"No, most decidedly I do not. On the contrary I think he has managed the matter very ably, and it is only because I know he will have to give way shortly to Blaine that causes me to believe there is danger of a war between the United States and Germany."

"Can you give me your ideas, in a nut shell, of this whole Samoan difficulty?"

"Yes in a very few words, Germany for some years has, for both commercial and political reasons, been looking with covetous eyes on the Samoan island. And with Bismark to want is to get or to try to get, so that he has for a long time been quietly working to establish a German protectorate over these islands, and things have now reached a stage when he is prepared if necessary to fight for them if he cannot gain his point through diplomacy. If the United States is to defeat him through diplomacy, it is absolutely necessary that we should have the assistance of England, and with Blaine Secretary of State I do not believe that is possible. Nor is it possible for the United States to stop Germany by force unless we can get at least six months time to prepare a navy. If war should be declared in sixty days it would be disastrous to the United States. That is why I view the situation with alarm."

The Senate has passed its tariff bill, it has been sent to the House and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and Mr. Mills and other prominent Democratic members of that committee have been promised that it should be reported back to the House at an early day so as to give that body an opportunity of voting upon it.

A notable feature of the debate in the House attendant upon its reference to committee was the speech of Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, who is believed to represent the views of Gen. Harrison. He made an appeal to the Democrats to relieve the present situation by agreeing to some sort of a compromise which will reduce the Treasury surplus by thirty or forty millions of dollars. What effect this appeal will have is of course at this time a matter of conjecture, but there are many Democrats who believe that a compromise will be effected whereby a bill that will meet the approval of the most conservative members of both parties will be agreed to. If an agreement is reached it is probable that the most of the reduction will come from the internal revenue.

The sudden death of Representative Burnes of Missouri, on Thursday morning caused an adjournment of the House, which prevented a vote being taken on the Oklahoma bill that day as had been previously agreed upon by vote of the House. An attempt will be made to get it up this week, and if that fails it will be called up next Monday under a suspension of the rules.

As the end of the present administration draws nearer the popularity of Mrs. Cleveland seems to increase, if that were possible. Saturday afternoon, notwithstanding a disagreeable rainstorm, nearly two thousand people attended her public reception.

The sixth candidate for Public Printer under Harrison has made his appearance in this city.

Representative Butterworth, who it is said, expects to be the next Governor of Ohio, made a speech in the House last week bitterly arraigning the Knights of Labor for their manner of doing things. The speech was the political sensation of the present session, and everybody is talking about its probable effect upon his political future.

Senator Beck's absence from the Senate has been felt by both sides of the Chamber, and especially during the debate on the tariff bill. On this subject there is no able man in either House of Congress. The distinguished Kentuckian and invalid reports his health as greatly improved and expects to return soon, he is in Cuba.

Nicholas Baches has been convicted of manslaughter at the Westmoreland county court. He killed Joseph Green in a quarrel on the 18th of last September.

IN OTHER COUNTIES.

Clearfield county people have \$1,498, 882 in bonds, mortgages, money and judgments.

Clearfield county claims a population of 75,151, based on the assessor's returns of 1888.

The Clearfield Public Spirit has completed the first year of its existence under the present management. It is an excellent paper.

Albert Baum, son of Jonas Baum was accidentally killed near Westover, Clearfield county on the 21st, by a tree falling.

The new Reformed church at Marklesburg, Huntingdon county, has been completed. It cost \$5,000 and will be dedicated on Sunday February 17.

Dr. E. J. Miller, of West Providence township, Bedford county, is the owner of a Jersey calf that has two tails. It is well armed against fly time.

The saw mill owned by the Clearfield lumber company, limited, and W. A. Hoover & Co., was burned Wednesday last with \$1,000 shingles. Loss, \$4,500; insurance, \$1,500.

On the night of the 15th inst. about sixty pounds of honey were stolen from a beehive belonging to Stewart Foster, of Henderson township, Huntingdon county, and on a subsequent night 100 pounds more were abstracted.

Forty-five persons have professed conversion during the revival at Alexandria, Huntingdon county, under the ministry of Rev. C. T. Dunning, of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Jacob Stayrook, of Bratton township, Mifflin county, while cutting wood in the mountains recently, attempted to cut a limb with an ax in his right hand, when the axe glanced and struck his left arm, nearly severing it.

At the re-union of the old boatmen recently held in Liverpool, Perry county, a list of seventeen boatmen was read who had died during the year 1888.

Mrs. Jacob Grove, of Walker township, Huntingdon county, gave birth to twin babies last week; these added to the already large family makes seventeen.

Samuel Flegal, of Morris township, Clearfield county, was killed last Wednesday while walking on the track of the Beech Creek railroad. He was a highly respected farmer.

The Duncannon mill, recently destroyed by fire, has partially resumed operations. Fifteen new machines have been put in, and by spring it is expected the works will be restored to their former capacity.

A few days ago a tramp entered the residence of Elijah Marsh, about a mile east of Ebensburg, during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, and abused the children in a beastly manner. Mr. Marsh subsequently, pursued the tramp and gave him a sound drubbing.

Geo. W. Shenefelt, while working in Jacob Hammon's ore bank in Cromwell township, Huntingdon county, on the 19th inst., had a leg broken by the ore cars laden with lumber jumping the track and throwing the lumber upon him.

Rev. J. Max Lantz, while returning from a wedding at Lewistown Junction a few nights ago, his horse took fright, upsetting the buggy and throwing Mr. Lantz out. He was dragged some distance, but escaped with a bad shake up and a sprained ankle.

In considering the 109 actions for license in Clearfield county, the court ground out this grist: Granted—Hotels 49; restaurants, 4; breweries, 3; distillery, 1. Refused—Hotels, 21; restaurants, 2; wholesale, 6.

While the family of Mr. H. L. Miller, of Houtzdale, were sitting around the table reading, on last Saturday night, the lamp exploded in their midst and their little daughter was enveloped in flames and ran screaming out to the street. She was so badly burned that she expired in a few moments.

A brakeman named Graham, of Stewart's Station, Westmoreland county, while dropping cars in the Lawrenceville yards, was struck by a coal train on Wednesday night and instantly killed. He was so terribly cut up as to be almost beyond recognition. He was a young man.

Bedford Gazette: Near Six Roads, within sight of each other's dwelling place, live three remarkable couple. Solomon Adams and wife, married nearly fifty-two years ago; and Jacob Beckley and wife, married nearly fifty-one years ago; all are comparatively healthy and happy. They were about all playmates in youth, and the kindest feeling has always prevailed between them. In all these years they have never resided a mile from each other, except in one or two instances for a short period.

RESPECT THE FLAG.

It is not worth while to discuss all the vagaries that find expression in the bills proposed in the Legislature, but sometimes these foolish bills become enacted into laws and do no end of mischief simply because no one has had the forethought or the courage to oppose them. Such a one is that which passed to a third reading in the House providing that the flag of the United States shall float above every public school in the Commonwealth. At first sight this may appear simply a piece of harmless patriotic sentiment. A little reflection will show that it is not only foolish, but mistaken.

Those whose memory will go back to the time "before the war" can recall how in their youth the sight of the United States flag floating from a fort or arsenal aroused a sentiment that it no longer has power to produce, now that the proud ensign has become the common adornment of every shop and building and the medium of every kind of advertising. One must now go abroad, to some part of the world where the flag is seldom seen, to feel again the pride and elation that the national symbol only can excite when its appearance is felt to have a significance.

For a flag is nothing if not a symbol and the common use of the stars and stripes, upon every or upon no occasion, and without reference to the sovereign it symbolizes has cheapened its effect and obscured its real significance. If it is used without meaning it is used unworthily: if it is meant to have a meaning in this common use, it must be to extend the jurisdiction of the United States far beyond the purpose of the Constitution.

It is the business of the public schools to teach, and especially to teach the principles and nature of American institutions. The flag is the symbol of the Federal Union, of a government of regulated powers whose greatest strength and title to respect is in its clear restriction to the powers committed to it for the common defense and welfare. It is a sovereignty that does not deal directly with the individual and that is all the more honored because it stands apart from the daily concerns of local government. This power through which we present a united front to the world is fitly typified by the flag that floats above our ships, above the forts and arsenals, the Mint and other depositories of the Federal power. But the Government of the United States has not and ought not to have anything to do with our public schools.

The foundations of our free institutions is in local self-government. Our public school system is indissolubly knit up with the right and duty of the people to control their own local affairs, and the scheme of putting it under Federal control or patronage would be its destruction. This is what makes the measure pending in the House important. If the United States flag above the school house is merely a piece of sentiment, it would much better be left to the individual school boards. It is designed as an assertion of Federal authority over the schools, it is to be fought to the uttermost by every friend of education, of every friend of popular government, every friend of the Constitution of the United States.

The flag of our country is too sacred a thing to be used without meaning or without respect. Our school system is too important to be trifled with and its influence too great for us to allow it to be made the medium of propagating political fallacies and misconception. This is not a question of disputed doctrine, for every intelligent man in Pennsylvania, whether Federalist or Democrat, will view the matter alike if he will but give a serious thought. This is all that the members of the House are asked to do. If they will but consider the pending measure carefully they will not fail to vote it down, both for the honor of Pennsylvania and for the honor of the flag.—*Times.*

NO OCCASION FOR ALARM FOR THE CHURCHES.

The Philadelphia *Ledger* combats with figures the allegation that churches are decreasing and religious feeling is growing cold in this country. It says the country has grown amazingly in all ways, in population, wealth and greatness, since 1810, but the religious feeling has developed marvelously during the same period, or, at least, it feels justified in saying so by the steady and phenomenal increase of the money contributed to the cause of domestic and foreign missions.

A maple tree in front of G. H. Pearson's house at Atkinson's Mills Mifflin county was in full bloom last week.

FREE SPEECH COLUMN.

OPEN FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ALL QUESTIONS.

We Believe in Free and Fair Discussion of All Subjects. Let All Be Heard—Do We Want Prohibition?

[As the Prohibition question will be submitted to the people for their decision, we deem it just that both sides should be heard, and open the columns of the *Democrat* for that purpose. All communications should be properly signed and sent not later than Friday for the next week's issue, 1000 words limit of all articles.—Ed.]

The following article taken from the *North American Review* was handed us for publication. Next week an article on "Personal Rights and Liberty" will appear in same column.

Whether it be right or wrong, *per se* to buy or sell intoxicating liquor, is a question which loses its interest to me in the face of the acknowledged and appalling evils with which the liquor traffic confronts us. It is not easy to exaggerate these evils, even if this were possible. There is not a single channel through which such depths of misery flow over the human race as through this. No ravages of disease, no devastation of nature, no kind of vice or crime work so much woe as this. Such a statement no intelligent person will be likely to doubt, and no honest one to deny. The liquor traffic is responsible for four-fifths of our poverty, seven-eighths of our crime, and for a proportion of our disease, and wrong—to say nothing of taxation, which makes every other evil almost insignificant.

Now, it is undoubtedly true that all these evils have a moral source. They root themselves in the choices of free will. They would all disappear if the moral purpose of man's life were set upon virtue. And it is equally true that virtuous purpose must be free. No man is made virtuous by compulsion. His virtue is not put upon him or placed within him, save as he himself originates it in his own choice. I have no dispute, therefore with one who tells me that the law is not sufficient for virtue. I know very well that good laws do not make goodness. Evil remains in the human heart and in society under the best laws. But it is a prodigious mistake, therefore, to argue against all constraint of human conduct except by moral means. One ignores the actual facts of human nature who denies the necessity of physical coercion among men. If the Infant Hercules could strangle the serpent in his cradle, unnumbered other infants, with a genuine life, would be strangled by the monster unless he were kept from creeping upon them by a power stronger than he. While we would do everything we can to bring men to control their appetites by their own self-mastery, let us not ignore the need, or renounce the privilege, or throw away the power we have of helping them, by all means, to this self-control. In the present condition of the world we may not adjust our laws to the resources of the actual heroes, and forget the requirements of the possible ones.

Most persons, however, admit that men, as they are, cannot be governed without force, and that the liquor traffic needs to be regulated by law. The Western Liquor Dealers and Manufacturers' Protective Association not long ago expressed itself as decidedly convinced of such a need. The question, therefore, relating to the liquor traffic, is not between law and no law, but between one kind of law and another. And, practically, the progress of discussion has narrowed us down to the question, whether we should license the traffic, or prohibit it.

Now, I compare all possible good which may come from the traffic with its actual evils, and the preponderance of the evil is so enormous that any conceivable gain is obliterated by the overwhelming loss. I therefore disregard the gain,—questionable at the best,—and, addressing myself to the enormity of the loss, I would do my utmost to remove by the destruction of its source. Instead of attempting to restrict, I would prohibit absolutely the traffic, believing that we may thus immediately and greatly lessen the evils, which we hope thus ultimately and wholly to destroy. My reason for such a position—as in this paper I must be brief—may be succinctly stated.

1. A restriction which permits the trade and simply limits the traders to those who are licensed to sell, sets no limit upon the buyer. His opportunity is not diminished. He can get his liquor, if he wishes it, just as copiously as before. One saloon will supply the craving of five hundred—or five thousand, for that matter—as well as many. The evils, therefore, of the traffic are not necessarily reduced by reducing the numbers of those who sell.

abolition of places where the liquor is sold, rather than their reduction, is what we need, and ought to seek.

2. License, high or low, takes away what ought to be, and, in a healthy community, would be, an important moral restriction, from the seller. It removes from him the condemnation of the community, and justifies him. It makes his act legal. His moral sense, easily blinded by the gigantic profits of his trade, is thus paralyzed. He becomes thus, what we find him to be, an odious, rapacious, an evil man and seducer, who wastes worse and worse. I do not wish to condemn him, or any man, but I do not know of any trade so demoralizing to the trader—any class of sales which does the seller so much moral mischief—as that in intoxicating drinks. And to this damage the community contributes by licensing him in his trade.

3. To license the liquor traffic on the view that the enormity of its evils can be thus regulated,—impossible, as experience has thus far shown this to be,—to sanction the opening of its floodgates of woe on the pretense that to keep them shut is to infringe upon the liberty which a wise government should ever guard, is not only, as it seems to me, the enslavement of the multitude for the freedom of the few,—an attempt whose result is likely to be the bondage of all,—but it makes the community itself a party to wrong doing. This cannot be done without lowering its own moral tone.

4. The revenue from license falls heaviest where the burden ought to be the least. The cost of the license, while it may add to the price of the liquor sold, does not, so far as I can learn, diminish the amount of the liquor bought and consumed. Practically, the cost of liquor within the limits which any license is likely to put, seems to have little to do with the consumption. An intemperate man is not likely to drink more because it is cheap, nor less because it is dear. The difference between three cents a glass and four makes no appreciable difference with him. But the family of the drunkard! Alas! alas! the gross revenues for high license, the enormous taxes on intoxicating drinks are wrung from the wretchedness of worse than widowed wives and worse than orphaned children.

The presence of the prohibitory party in our national politics is in itself a moral education. I hold that the end it seeks is wise statesmanship and social ethics, and while I do not anticipate an immediate victory from the use of this weapon, nor an ultimate victory, if we do not employ other weapons also; while I do not believe that Prohibition alone will stop the sale of strong drink any more than it will stop the continuance of gambling, or of theft, or of any other crime, believing, with Mr. Garrison, that "it is the duty of Government to make it as hard as possible for a man to go wrong, and as easy as possible for him to go right."

JULIUS H. SHELLEY.

A Personally-Conducted Tour to Florida via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Following up the policy so successfully inaugurated last winter, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that a series of tours will be arranged this season for points in Florida and Georgia. The first is fixed for Monday, January 28th. On that date a special train of Pullman drawing-room sleeping-cars, under the superintendence of the Tourist Agent and Chapron, will leave New York 6.30 P. M., Newark 6.49, Elizabeth 7.05, Trenton 8.05, Philadelphia 9.20, Wilmington 10.04, Baltimore 11.40, Washington 12.50 A. M., and run through via the Atlantic Coast Line to Jacksonville and Thomasville, arriving at the former in the morning and the latter early in the afternoon of the second day. The round-trip tickets, which will admit of a two weeks visit in the South, including Pullman accommodations and meals en route in both directions, will be sold from New York at \$48.00, Philadelphia, \$46.00, and at rates in proportion from the other principal stations on the system. The rates to both Thomasville and Jacksonville are the same, but the tickets are distinct. This trip will undoubtedly prove a most delightful one, as the return limit of the tickets enables the tourist to visit all the important points in this attractive section.

The excursion rate as above from Bellefonte will be \$49.

Tourists will take a regular train, connecting with the special at the nearest available station.

For detailed information address S. W. F. Draper, Tourist Agent, 849 Broadway, New York.

Captain Elijah White, of Houtzdale, is at death's door from a severe cold. He has been in the hospital for several weeks. His family is in the Juniata valley.