



The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - EDITOR.

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Speaker Carlisle says he looks forward with pleasure to giving up the cares of the office he has held so long. It is generally conceded that he has made one of the most impartial Speakers the House has ever had.

A clergyman of Elgin, N. Y., Rev. George R. Milton, has begun a "holy crusade" against Freemasonry. He says that that and other secret societies are "the devil's agencies." Some one should have the kindness to wake him up and tell him that he is in the nineteenth century.

YOUNG Emperor William has purchased a \$30,000 Pullman car for his private use. An exchange thinks that he will never succeed in persuading Bismarck to ride in the car. "Rather than make a trip in an American car the old Chancellor would ride on the gravel train and sit on the brakewheel."

THE abolition of slavery in Brazil is said to have had a deplorable effect upon the industries of the Empire, and a financial crash is anticipated. The wants of the freedmen being few, they will not work steadily. Habits of industry and thrift are yet to be acquired. The financial outlook is so unfavorable that bank shares and similar securities have suffered a decline of thirty to fifty per cent.

THE Government's test of the new fifteen inch dynamite guns of the cruiser Vesuvius, on Saturday, demonstrated clearly that the United States has already carried the latest and most effective weapon of warfare to a high state of improvement. Large charges and small charges and long distances and short distances furnished conditions that fully tested the capacity of the dynamite gun. The only thing possibly lacking to make the test a practical success was the absence of a first-class man-of-war at the point where the dynamite plunged into the Atlantic, but the columns of water that were spouted into the air enable one's imagination to estimate the damage that would have ensued. The question now is: Have air and dynamite superseded power and steel.

An exchange alludes to the fact that there is a bill at present before the House of Representatives, making it compulsory on parents and others having children in charge to send them to school at least sixteen consecutive weeks in the year; also providing school books free to those unable to purchase them. The State should in our opinion adopt a uniform system of text books and make them free to all, under certain restrictions: It would do away with constant change of books. At present townships, towns and boroughs contiguous are using an entirely different set of text books. And the expense, necessarily is no small trifle. Philadelphia has adopted the free school book system and it works like a charm. Why not make it a State affair and publish our own school books.

The New York World says: Responsibility for a "condition" created by a surplus of \$150,000,000 in the Treasury and a surplus revenue of \$100,000,000 a year will soon be transferred to the Republican party.

The leaders of the Democratic party, therefore, do well to turn their attention to the theory of taxation which has produced this surplus.

Every tradition and principle of genuine Democracy is opposed to the theory that a tariff for bounties to millionaires is a legitimate exercise of the Constitutional power of taxation.

True Democracy is at war with the theory that the handicapping of manufacturers by a tax on their raw materials is for the protection of American industries.

Real Democracy repudiates the theory that a tariff of 47 per cent. is necessary to "promote infant industries" which flourished thirty years ago under a tariff less than half as high.

Democracy—that which deserves the name—is everlastingly hostile to the theory that unjust taxation may be perpetuated as long as the politicians can spend the proceeds thereof.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

ENTERPRISING AND WIDE-AWAKE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The Samoan Difficulty Settled and Germany Backs Down—The American Shipping League Meets—Speaker Carlisle Glad to Step Down.

President Cleveland and Secretary Bayard have every right to be proud over their action in the Samoan matter. They have made the greatest bully of the nineteenth century—Bismarck—get down on his marrow bones and acknowledge himself in the wrong, and promise to do better in the future. What is to come out of this Samoan squabble remains to be seen, but up to the latest date American rights and honor were intact, and likely to remain so.

Representative Springer is a happy man. After working for many weary months against a determined opposition he has the satisfaction of seeing the Oklahoma bill passed by the House with a good healthy majority. The bill now goes to the Senate where the fight will begin again, owing to the shortness of the session it will have to be made sharp and quick by the friends of the measure or it will be lost. John Bushyhead, ex-Governor of the Cherokee nation, says the President has promised him to veto the bill should it get through the Senate.

A strong appeal to the public in favor of American shipping was made by the American Shipping League which held its annual session here last week. Friday evening a public meeting was held at which a number of prominent Democrats and Republicans made speeches commending the work undertaken by the League. A notable feature of the speeches was the complimentary manner in which the Republican speakers alluded to Secretary Whitney. Representative Boutelle, of Maine, called him the "enterprising and wide-awake Secretary of the Navy," etc. When one at all familiar with the Navy Department under the previous administration looks at what Mr. Whitney has accomplished, and how little it has cost, comparatively, he cannot help commending the hardworking Secretary for the good he has done, and regretting that the country is so soon to lose the services of such a man.

The number of nominations unacted upon and now pending before the Senate is over 400. When a Republican Senator is asked whether his party proposes to "hang up" all these nominations for good, he will begin to talk with great interest about something else.

Representative Houck, of Tennessee, who is trying to boom Mahone into the Cabinet, has received a letter from Ben Butler endorsing Mahone for Post-General. Stop a moment and think, dear reader, of the combination—Butler and Mahone. What a pair they would make. It would be exceedingly hard to make three of a kind, and to make it four would be impossible. Butler endorses Mahone but who endorses Butler, that's the interesting question.

The advance guard of the grand army of Republican bread-and-butter patriots has arrived in Washington. Every man of them wants an office. In less than six months some of them who are now asking for big positions will be trying to compromise on a place as messenger or watchman in some of the departments. Mr. Cleveland has had to send in another veto. He could not see why a widow whose husband died in 1865 of typhoid fever could be entitled to receive a pension.

Whatever the Republicans may do to relieve the menacing condition due to a pléthoric Treasury the Democrats will continue to fight the theory of taxation for a surplus and a tariff for bounties.

A charter was granted at the state department 31st, to the Sterling coal company, of Harrisburg, with a capital of \$200,000. The directors are: J. L. Spangler, Wilbur F. Reeder, D. H. Hastings, Charles P. Hewes, of Bellefonte; Henry Keller, of Harrisburg; Edward McHugh, of Easton, and Robert B. Baker, of Philadelphia. The object of the corporation is for the mining and producing of coal and other materials, and the transportation and sale thereof.

Anthony Sherry, son of John Sherry, of Barr township, Cambria county, on the 25th ult., was thrown upon a circular saw and seriously injured. The lower part of the chest, on the right side, was cut through the integument and ribs, so as to allow a portion of the lung to protrude on inspiration. The flexor muscles of the right forearm were cut and lacerated and the bones of the same member were fractured. It is thought he will recover.

John Port, foreman of division No. 44, between Petersburg and Barree, was the fortunate one who received the \$50 prize from the Pennsylvania railroad company last week for having the best and cleanest track on James Cullen's division between Huntingdon and Altoona.

PATRIOTISM OR PECULATION—WHICH?

Ex-Senators Wright and Greer are the head men of a syndicate that is now running the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of Pennsylvania. This syndicate has accomplished two well-known achievements. It has gained large speculative or peculative results from the money expended for the soldiers' orphans, and it has brought reproach and shame upon the Commonwealth by the only lately exposed abuse of a sacred public trust, and, in some instances, the brutal abuse of the soldiers' children committed to the schools.

This syndicate has been powerful enough in its political efforts to have the period for ending the schools extended time and again; and every legislative act granting an extension has left the flavor of the jobber in a greater or less degree. Now they come again and their personal presence at Harrisburg is plainly told by the bills introduced in the name of patriotism as a thin guise to peculation. Already bills have been presented appropriating the sum of \$500,000 to continue the syndicate schools which are now only by courtesy called Soldiers' Orphans' Schools. First, a special Superintendent is wanted at a salary of \$3,000; next \$275,000 for the schools for the current year and \$225,000 for next year, and then comes \$30,000 for the current year to provide for the admission in the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of wives and mothers of permanently disabled soldiers. All these are to be gathered in by the greedy syndicate that has profited immensely by the schools and that has clouded this noble charity with consuming shame.

It is a disgrace to our law-making authority that the whole speculative system was not torn up by the roots a few years ago, when the brutality and greed of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools syndicate was exposed in all their hideous nakedness; but greed shrewdly plays upon patriotism; the tactics of the jobber come to aid the speculators and the syndicate yet rules the legislative power of the State. Had these schools been completely transformed when the appalling abuses demanded it, and a reorganization on an honest basis such as honest patriotism would dictate, none would grudge the appropriations needed to continue the schools until 1891; but when abuses are condoned and the authors of the wrongs come to demand new extensions and new control in their own exclusive interests, it is simply a mockery of the intelligence of legislators and a like mockery of every patriotic impulse.

It is due alike to the generous charity of the Commonwealth and to the children of soldiers who are the beneficiaries of the State, that the syndicate speculation should be entirely uprooted before any additional appropriations are made. The soldiers of the State are not asking for these extensions and appropriations. A few have been drummed into perfunctory recommendation of them, but when the true soldiers of the State want charity for the children of their fellow-soldiers, they will not need the lead of syndicate speculators to inspire them to the task. In point of fact, the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools have been made the mere plaything of peculation, and whether closed in 1891, as every dictate of public policy demands, or whether continued after that date, they should be rescued from the grasp of greed and reorganized on a just and patriotic basis. Patriotism should escape the stain of peculation.

The mildness of the winter seems to call upon scientists for explanation. The doctrine of the equalization of heat during certain periods receives strong support from the present condition, since last summer was as unusually warm. We note that General Greely, while of opinion that in certain periods there will be a like average of heat and cold, does not consider that such average will often be found in so short a term as one year. We are not advised, however, by science, as to the extent of such periods, nor whether they exist in regular cycles. Nor are we told wherefore the seasons of each year should not have a common average of heat; nor even why each winter or each summer should not have the same average of heat and cold, as one would think they naturally would have. If the earth in its revolution about the sun does not get into like condition as to temperature all the time, wherefore does it not, we would like to know.

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IN OTHER COUNTIES.

Mr. George Diem, of Philipsburg, had his right leg broken, recently, and received other injuries by being thrown from a buggy.

Mrs. R. B. Valentine, of Wheatfield township, Perry county, has a peach tree that has been in full bloom for the past two weeks.

Mordecai Isenberg, of Turbett township, Juniata county, on the 19th ult., killed a copperhead snake that was over three feet in length.

The other day William Keller, of Sandy Ridge, had his face cut from the corner of his mouth almost to the ear by a kick from a horse.

A man named William Piper, residing at Peen Station, tried to shuffle off this mortal coil on Wednesday by means of landanum. He didn't succeed, however.

We learn from the Latrobe Advance that as a result of very interesting special services held in the Presbyterian church at Latrobe fifty persons have been added to the church.

Charles A. Mead, of Dubois, aged 69 Mrs. Patrick Shields and Mrs. John Helsel, of Houtzdale; Mrs. D. R. P. Sherry, of Wallace town, and Franklin A. Pierce, of Bradford township, aged 22, are recent deaths in Clearfield county.

Recently some scoundrels entered the stable of Henry Wingard, in Marchand, Indiana county, and with a sharp knife ripped open the belly of a valuable horse. When found the intestines were protruding and the animal died in a short time.

Mrs. Mary Smith, of Penn township, aged 72; Simon Long, of Potter's Mills, 59; Daniel Ludwig, of George's Valley, 67; Mrs. George Reiber, of Tusseyville, 54; Mrs. Samuel Shaffer, of Miles township, 82; and Thomas Dale, of Lemont, 65, are recent deaths.

An old man named William Cunningham was arrested at the residence of John Wilson, in Becaria township, Clearfield county, on the 25th ult., for stealing a horse from Matthew McGarvey, of McPherson. Wilson in his endeavors to exculpate Cunningham criminated himself, and both were jailed.

Ralph Haron, aged 6 years, of Hill Valley, Huntingdon county, was slipping on a straw stack Thursday when his right leg struck in such a manner that it was broken, the larger of the two bones below the knee was broken in two places and the smaller one in one place.

Spring Mills. The Grammar school boys and girls are having a week's vacation while their instructor is taking lessons under Judge Forst, as a jurymen.

Great surprise was felt throughout this valley that the Hun got clear, while very few thought he would hang; all thought he would at least go to Allegheny.

W. A. Brown and Frank Ream have received their first installment of organs, and now their store room begins to look musical.

Our convention promises to be a grand affair, and our young people are looking forward to having a good time.

The Evangelical Association is holding a very interesting protracted meeting.

The P. O. appointment is still unsettled. Nobody knows who the lucky one will be. I believe Harrison has not announced it yet. Perhaps he will when he gets his cabinet fixed. In the mean time Wm. Pealer continues to hand out our billet doux with his accustomed regularity.

Miss Ella Mersinger will teach select school next summer before harvest and Miss Carrie Searist after harvest.

Rumor says Prof. Samuel Ditzel will teach an academy at Tusseyville next summer, if he does he may expect a large school for he is a very popular young man.

—If you will take notice you will see that the thrifty farmer when he comes to town will always take pains to blanket his horse before he leaves him. The worthless and shiftless man will drive into town head his team for some saloon, tie it with one of the lines and go in for a whiskey sling, leaving his horse wet with sweat, to stand out in the cold and shiver. Eminent horsemen say it matters little how hard a horse is driven if care is taken to rub him down and blanket him when through with him. Thousands of horses are annually killed by over driving and improper care during the winter days, when they are forced to stand out in the cold unblanketed.

—Bang cutting at home—Preston the barber.

THE DEMOCRAT is only \$1.00, when paid in advance.

FREE SPEECH COLUMN.

A FEW LESSONS IN PROHIBITION IN IOWA.

A Number of Articles Published in for Publication—The Amendment some see it.—Is Prohibition a Success.

[This column will remain open for discussion of the Prohibition Amendment until the election. All articles must be sent by writer and limited to 1000 words.]

AN IOWA LESSON IN PROHIBITION.

As the people of Pennsylvania are about to decide the question whether some future Legislature shall enact laws to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquors, the experience of other States on this subject may be of much value. If it should be agreed that a majority in a State have a right to impose their will upon the minority in matters of personal liberty, taste and custom, the practical question of the wisdom and expediency of the prohibitory policy would still remain open. The power to frame a code of sumptuary laws is a very different question from the propriety of exercising such power.

For several years the State of Iowa has been subject to a rigid system of Prohibition. For several years successive Legislatures have sharpened the penal statutes against the manufacture and sale of liquors, until the prohibitory code of Iowa is regarded by its authors and advocates as nearly perfect. In the rural portions of the State, it must be said the law is enforced with little or no difficulty. The farmers have a little more trouble than formerly to obtain their supplies of liquor, but they get all they want in "original packages" from neighboring States.

In the small towns of Iowa the open sale of liquors in saloons and taverns has been effectually suppressed. The drug store, however, stands open to give the citizen or stranger any sort of tippie upon his certificate that he needs it for "medical purposes" and that he is "not in the habit of using intoxicating liquors." Besides the drug store, and demoralizing secret methods of evading the law are numerous. The most successful is in carrying the liquor in the vendor's ample pockets so as to be prepared for any sudden irruption of the constabulary force. Beer and light wines are not suited for this sort of traffic, while a very considerable quantity of whisky may be concealed in this way in case of an attempted search and seizure. As a consequence the consumption of potent spirits has almost supplanted that of mild malt liquors in the small towns of Iowa. That the effect is to aggravate, instead of suppress the evils of intemperance need not be urged.

But in the large river towns of Iowa, for whose populations the prohibitory system was especially enacted, the law is almost completely ignored. A correspondent of the Omaha Bee, who is making a special tour of Iowa with the view of investigating the operation of the prohibitory system, writes that in the city of Davenport it is "treated as a joke and jest." Davenport is a prosperous and rapidly growing city, containing about 35,000 inhabitants. When Prohibition was submitted for adoption the people of Davenport voted against it by a majority of 6 to 1, and when it became a law they simply ignored its existence. There are in that city, according to the Bee correspondent, "exactly 172 saloons wide open day and night, and Sunday, too." These saloons are licensed by the municipal government in the face of Prohibition, and yield a yearly revenue of \$17,200 to the city. The same public sentiment in Davenport which opposed the enactment of a law violating the personal liberties and social customs of the inhabitants will not permit it to be enforced.

In view of the degree of success which Prohibition has achieved in Iowa, experience may well assume a prophetic strain in regard to the adoption of such a policy in Pennsylvania. Is it likely that a prohibitory law could be more easily enforced in the large cities and towns of Pennsylvania than in Iowa? Are the people of this State more law-abiding or would they prove more patient and submissive under a sumptuary code that would be wantonly violative of personal rights? The people of Davenport refer with justifiable pride to the official records, which show that there is less crime in that city than in any other of its population in the United States; but, while law is observed in all other respects, they will not submit to the prohibitory strait-jacket.

For the people of Pennsylvania the important practical question which the Legislature forces upon them for decision is between free and unlicensed

whisky and a reasonable High License law. Experience has shown that the worst abuse of the liquor traffic can be suppressed by High License, and that Prohibition never has been and never can be forced upon a free people. Mahomet could not enforce his fanatical prohibitory code even upon the servile inhabitants of the sunbaked regions of the East—Record.

PROHIBITION IN HUNTINGDON CO.

Two wooden-headed Associate Judges in Huntingdon county have established Prohibition by refusing license to applicants. The result of the experiment is described by a Huntingdon correspondent of the Pittsburg Post. It says:

For two years not a license has been granted in this county, yet it is asserted by the conservative element of society that there is infinitely more drunkenness, especially among boys and young men, to be seen here now than when there were licensed places for the sale of liquor. It is found quite easy to have liquors shipped here from the adjoining counties, and as a consequence innumerable private drinking clubs have been organized, which are composed chiefly of minors and boys of very tender years. Since the refusal of all licenses two years ago a strong sentiment against total prohibition has sprung up in this city because of its positive failure to diminish drunkenness. It has been carefully estimated that over \$500 is weekly sent from this county to liquor dealers in adjoining counties whose licenses are in vogue. A few interventions with prominent citizens show the fact to be about as above stated.

BETTER THAN PROHIBITION.

The opinion that high license would be better than Prohibition seems to be gaining strength among the people, and there is little doubt that it will become a powerful factor in the approaching special election. It is argued that, while Prohibition will not prohibit, it will destroy property valued at many hundreds of thousands of dollars, bankrupt many persons, and demoralize business; on the other hand, high license will curtail the liquor business, and yield a revenue to both state and county. The former yields no revenue; it will simply destroy. Viewed in this light, many people are taking ground against the amendment. The question is the most important ever brought before the people of Pennsylvania, because of the vast monied interests involved without any prospect of a corresponding return, and it behooves every man to give it a careful and candid consideration.—Ed.

FRANCIS MURPHY, the great temperance apostle, talked to a reporter in Pittsburg on Saturday concerning the proposed prohibitory amendment. He was emphatically opposed to it, because it would do the temperance cause more harm than good. Men could not be compelled to keep sober. Mr. Murphy stands by the Brooks law. He thinks it has done a great deal of good by reducing the number of saloons in the state nearly to one half. High license and moral suasion are his remedies for intemperance.

Grange Meeting.

There will be a series of private meetings of the Patrons of Husbandry of Centre county at the following times and places.

Victor Grange, Feb. 7th, at 9 o'clock a. m.; Logan Grange, 2 p. m.

Zion Grange, Feb. 7th 9 a. m.; Walker, 2 p. m.

Washington Grange, Feb. 11th, at 2 p. m.

Centre Grange, Feb. 12th, 9 a. m.; Leonard, 2 p. m.

Half Moon Grange, Feb. 13th, 9 a. m.; Benner 2 p. m.

Bald Eagle Grange, Feb. 14th, at 9 a. m.; Union Grange, 2 p. m.

The Master of State Grange, the Master, Deputy and Lecturer of the County Grange, and the President and Secretary of the Fire Insurance Company will be present. The different subordinate Granges are requested to be fully represented as business of great importance will be transacted.

I. S. FRAIN, Master.

J. C. GILLAND, Secretary.

Williamsport Sun and Banner: In a package of money received by the West Branch National bank of this city was a one dollar greenback bill, on the back of which was written, in red ink, the following: This is the last of a fortune of \$10,000. Beware of rum, cards and women." No name was signed and it is not known whether the writer really lost such an amount of money or whether he wrote the above "just for fun."