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The Centre Democrat.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE HAPPENINGS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

News Items Gathered by our Regular Correspondent—The Tariff Bill—Will New Mexico be Admitted?

Representative Springer thinks his Omnibus bill will yet get through in spite of the fact that the conferees have failed to agree upon it. He says that three, if not more, Republican Senators will vote with the Democratic Senators to admit New Mexico. I shall only be able to see if they do it.

The report of the Treasury experts on the tariff bill show that outside of the internal revenue features the measure will only make a reduction of from three to five millions of dollars. The House Ways and Means Committee will report the bill this week, with a recommendation that it be rejected. Just what will follow if it is rejected it is difficult to say. The internal revenue features of the bill are satisfactory to quite a number of Democrats in the House, and unless they can be satisfied that the Culler bill, repealing the tobacco tax, now in the hands of Mr. Randall's committee or a similar one will be surprised to see the Senate bill adopted. And I believe that its adoption would create far more dissatisfaction among Republicans than Democrats.

Senator Vest is going to have some fun when the Republican Senators conferees on the Springer "Omnibus" bill make their report to the Senate. Mr. Vest will prove by the Record that in 1875, when New Mexico was thought to be Republican, that many Republicans now in the Senate voted in the House for the admission of that Territory along with Colorado.

Now he wants to know why these men oppose the admission of that territory. The inference is very plain to Senator Vest and everybody else. New Mexico is now Democratic. What care these Republican Senators for consistency when party interests are at stake?

There is a movement here which is said to have the President's approval, to have Senator Kenna withdrawn from the contests in West Virginia. The idea is that it is impossible to have Senator Kenna re-elected, and that some other Democrat may be elected thus saving the seat to the party. As a compensation it is proposed that the President shall nominate Mr. Kenna Interstate Commissioner, "Senatorial courtesy" making it certain that he would be immediately confirmed.

So after the fourth of March Mr. Cleveland will resume the practice of law, in New York city. It is said that this is the preliminary step to his being sent to the Senate as successor to Senator Everts whose term will expire in 1891. This is very probable if the Democrats can succeed in capturing the legislature of New York as they expect to do. At any rate, it is safe to say that a man of Grover Cleveland's experience pluck and back-bone will not be allowed to remain in private life. Such men are too rare, and too badly needed in public life.

The President has sent the bill making an Executive Department of the Department of Agriculture to the Attorney General for an opinion as to its constitutionality. This action has caused the circulation of the report that he was contemplating a veto of the measure.

General Longstreet and Mosby are here presumably fixing up things to get something from Harrison.

The story that twenty-five boys, soldiers' orphans, connected with the McAlister school, had become insane, was published a day or so ago, and speculation has since been rife as to the cause of this remarkable state of things. While the form which the disease has taken is of the harmless type, the inference drawn from the fact by Dr. Banks, who examined the cases, is that they have either by design or accident been dosed with some powerful drug which has temporarily demented them. Whatever the cause, the case is certainly phenomenal and full of scientific interest. It will, of course, be made the subject of careful investigation.

The Philadelphia Times of a recent date contained the following inquiry: Can any of your readers give me any information as to the whereabouts of one David Keller or his heirs. He was commonly called "Dave" Keller and lived at Centerville, Pa., or Centerville, Va., or possibly Centre county, Pa., about 1845 or 1850. He was the owner of a woolen factory and would probably be between 80 and 100 years old if alive. If Mr. Keller or any of his heirs will communicate with me they will hear something to their advantage.

W. E. THOMAS.
Portland Oregon, Jan. 30, 1889.

PROTECTION AND WAGES.

A meeting of a number of Knights of Labor held in Philadelphia a few days ago Mr. O'Keefe after referring to the work of the order, in reference to tariff said: "we are misled because we allow others to do the thinking for us. They preach protection, saying that it increases wages but the politicians do not care for you. All they want is your vote. This country suffers from a lack of legislative power in the interest of the whole people, because a great number of those chosen to make the laws are the representatives of corporations and trusts. In the United States Senate alone there are thirty-seven representatives of railroad corporations and trusts. They see that these interests are taken care of."

James M. ... was in favor of protection that protects the workingman, not the manufacturer." He cited an example of how working men are protected, stating that mechanics whose manufactures are unprotected earn from \$2.75 to \$3.50 per day while labor in the Collieries which are protected make but 75 cents a day. "These are facts that cannot be disputed. A number of people shout protection who do not care for the workingmen. They are after your votes."

These two laboring men's remarks, contain great good sense, and no doubt show the feeling, indicate the sentiment, and drift of opinion among many of the labor organizations. There is one thing, above all others, that labor wants and must learn before it can find any relief. That is that the Republican party is owned, body and breeches by the trusts and monopolists of our country; that the monopolists and trusts are the inveterate enemies of honest, free and well paid labor.

Had the same sentiment expressed above predominated in the ranks of labor before the late Presidential election trusts and monopolies would have been crushed beneath the voice of a free and mighty people. The Democratic party, always the friend of the laboring man, would have been retained in power. And relief, the relief, so much needed, would have come to every department of labor and industry, and trusts and monopolists and bounties for the rich soon become a thing of the past.

UNPRACTICED PRACTITIONERS.

Theoretically a graduate of the High School should be able to read and write the English language correctly, and a medical practitioner who has the diploma of a medical college in his possession ought to be able to amputate a leg or properly prescribe for a case of ague. But neither the High School graduate nor the graduate of the medical colleges are all qualified to successfully stand these tests.

Among the reasons urged for the establishment of a State Board of Medical Examiners in this State is the fact that similar Boards in other States have found over 20 per cent, of the persons asking for license to practice medicine to be incompetent. In the Naval Board 68 of the applications are rejected. Such disclosures are sufficiently alarming to justify precaution. There is doubt enough about the proper treatment of human ailments when a skillful practitioner after looking at a sick man's tongue and feeling his pulse, proceeds to administer upon his condition. It is indeed, the opinion of many physicians that, aside from surgical operations for apparent hurts from known causes, the death rate would hardly be increased if there should be neither doctors nor drugs to be obtained. Nature and skillful nursing are the great restoratives.

If this opinion is correct, a State Medical Board that should cut down the number of licensed practitioners would fulfill a function of obvious beneficence. Too much care cannot be exercised in keeping the medical profession up to the highest possible standard of excellence.

The strawberry crop promises to be a month earlier this season than last, owing to the mild winter, which has proved especially beneficial to the early crop in Georgia. The plants are in bloom already and a large yield is looked for. The season for berries opens about the middle of March, but in 1875 when the winter was mild, strawberries were placed on the market before February 1. Early berries sell readily for \$1 per box.

James H. Mann, has placed 5,000 brook trout in the Kishacoquillas creek, Mifflin county, at his axe factory. Now if he will hire a boy to shoot all the water snakes and ducks along the creek, his expectation of stocking the stream may be realized.

A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT.

A Remarkable Fight for the Custody of Two Children.

One of the most remarkable cotests over the possession of two children at Lewisburg occurred last week. Wesley Stark, employed on the Williamsport Sun and Banner, a man of good standing, took his two children to his mother's house in Lewisburg. Mrs. Stark alleges that her husband drugged her in order to abduct the children. Learning of their whereabouts she drove to Lewisburg to secure them. She applied to the elder Mrs. Stark in vain for them, the latter locking up her daughter-in-law and the children in the house with herself in order to prevent their departure. Young Mrs. Stark becoming desperate kicked out the sash in a window

and handed the two children to her sister through the aperture. The two sisters then drove off rapidly for Mrs. Stark's home. Friends of Mr. Stark in Lewisburg organized a pursuing party, and, telephoning ahead had the occupants of the carriage halted at a tollgate near Milton where they were overtaken and brought back to Union county without a warrant. United States Marshall Dill, of Philadelphia, who continues his law practice at Lewisburg, had been retained as counsel by Mr. Stark's friends and he advised the pursuers to get possession of the children at any risk, which they did.

Mrs. Stark engaged Charles S. Wolf, the famous Republican kicker, and the children were rekidnapped. Judge Bucher ordered the mother to produce the children in the evening at a special session of court. Meantime Mr. Stark had arrived in Lewisburg, and as Wolf, the women and children were returning to Wolf's office Stark and several of his relatives rushed out of an alley and attempted to take the children from the woman by force.

A free fight ensued. William Guinter, a member of the Methodist Church caught Mr. Wolf by the coat collar, and only let go when young Joe Wolf, the athletic son of the lawyer compelled him to do so. Mr. Leiser threw a large law book at Guinter which hit him on the head.

In the evening the Court House was crowded with the best people of the place until near midnight, listening to evidence. Stark charged his wife with being a habitual drunkard. Mrs. Stark denied this but admitted that she took liquor occasionally for pulmonary trouble. She also charged her husband with being free with a good looking domestic, and at the conclusion Judge Bucher made an order, giving the two children to the custody of the grandmother. This created great dissatisfaction among the spectators. The children screamed, the women cried, loud murmurs of dissent arose from all sides, and the court rapped vainly for order. Then the judge changed his mind and awarded the younger child to her mother.

Another outbreak occurred, and a free fight in the presence of the court was averted only by officials. Judge Bucher made a third decision, giving both children to their mother.

Mr. Wolf furnished \$300 for their appearance in court next Wednesday, when more sensational testimony will be given.

Two Men Badly Hurt.

Huntingdon Local News: A very disastrous explosion occurred at the limestone quarry in Black Log Valley, one mile from Orbisonia, owned by the Rockhill coal and iron company, and operated by Jacob Brodbeck, Friday morning. Two men named William Heller and Judson Thornberg had filled a ten-foot hole with black powder and applied the fuse. The blast failed to go off, and they were in the act of taking out the charge, when an explosion occurred and both men were struck by the flying rock and seriously injured. Judson Thornberg, who had hold of the drill, received the full force of the explosion. His right arm, left hand and left leg were blown off, and his body is so badly mutilated that he cannot recover. He is a little man and resides at Orbisonia. William Heller, who had the hammer, had his left eye knocked out and face badly bruised. His overcoat was blown off and clothing badly torn. He is over 50 years of age, and has a family residing in Orbisonia. The accident was caused, it is supposed, by the point of the iron drill they were using striking a flint and causing a spark which ignited the powder.

Northumberland county, Judge Rockefeller, in granting licenses required samples of liquor sold to be produced in court and drove through the county and personally inspected the houses.

FREE SPEECH COLUMN.

ANOTHER ARTICLE ON PROHIBITORY LAW AND PERSONAL LIBERTY.

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

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

It is evident that the flowing tide is at last with the temperance reform. The solution of the very great and complex problem involved in this reform is next in order; it stands next on the calendar of time. Austin Phelps has said in great

social evil has begun to amend ever until it has reached the point of supuration. The liquor evil has assuredly reached this point, and there is well grounded reason for the belief that the day of amendment is at hand.

Two methods of cure are presented: One, restriction by license, or taxation, made higher and higher; the other, prohibition.

There was a time, back in the twilight of civilization, in almost every country, when stealing was common and little thought of; and theft, in one way or another, was licensed. In France and in Germany still it is thought wise to attempt to control the bawdy-house by license; and, even in parts of this country, the same is true of gambling. The great question in that early age was shall the law be put against stealing; shall theft be made an outlaw at all times and at all places, or shall the privilege of stealing be purchasable by the few? Then, as now, doubtless, it was argued that "license is restriction;" it is "partial prohibition." But, finally, when theft was made an outlaw—completely, unequivocally so—a mighty step upward was taken. The time will come when to legalize a saloon will be thought as hurtful to social order, as is deemed today the legalization of a bawdy-house or a faro-bank; and then an open saloon on a public thoroughfare will be as rare a sight as will be a house of ill fame or a gambling hell.

Eight here rests the strongest argument for Prohibition; with the masses the most potent educator is the law. With them that which the law permits is right and that which the law forbids is wrong. The law is the great schoolmaster for the masses. We may spin ever so fine theories touching license, this will remain true in all of its tremendous educational effect over the minds of the multitude. The selling, buying and drinking of liquor as a beverage is not wrong, for it is permitted by law. That was a monstrous wrong done by the New York Legislature two years ago, the enactment of the Ives law, whereby pool-selling was made legal. After the passage of that law, said a prominent pool seller, "I now feel like a gentleman; my business is legal." A saloon-keeper points to his neatly framed "Permit," signed by well-known, respectable citizens, and says, "I am in a legal business and can claim for my protection all that the flag of my country represents." The Nevada Liquor Dealers' Association several years ago passed this resolution:

"Resolved, That so long as our business is licensed by the United States, State and County, we consider it perfectly legitimate and honorable, and do not think that we deserve the censure which is constantly being heaped upon us."

In Paris the educational effect of the law on the side of prostitution is horrible beyond thought. According to Von Oettingen's "Moral Statistik" (3d ed. 1882), fifty per cent, nearly of the fifty thousand children born annually in that city are born out of wedlock. A gentleman who, as commissioner, had charge for years of the business of licensing bawdy houses in Paris, tells a story of an old lady whose license he had often renewed. She wrote to him thanking him for his uniform kindness to her, and ended her letter by saying that she was now four-score years and over, and would soon depart for her home beyond the skies, but that her business would be conducted by her granddaughters, and she bespoke for them the same consideration as he had shown her, and that she from heaven would bless him. This I quote from a newspaper clipping, and see no reason to doubt its correctness. There was not, seemingly, the slightest suspicion in the mind of that woman that the business was not a proper one. And why should we have expected, pray, to have found such a suspicion? She had complied with the law, and she felt that the law had its mighty arms of protection about her. To the vast majority the law is the one visible, concrete form of right and wrong.

It is a frightful blunder to place the educative power of the law on the side of a wrong. Let the thunder of the law code be like that of Sinai, "Thou shalt not." Back yonder, in that distant light, Moses might have said, "O Lord, the people are not ready for these prohibitory laws. Public sentiment is not educated sufficiently. They will be unsteady and worship idols. Let us go at the reform gradually. Give them license laws, low license for worshipping a calf; high license for worshipping a full grown cow." No; "thou shalt not" thundered down the ages, creating at the time up toward its fulfillment. It is that when the Roman gladiators, leaping with the gladiators, leaping forward we used. A license law is a very cheap

the powers that be. It is the duty of government to make the path upon plain as possible and easy as possible, and the way to wrong is a difficult one. "But," it is objected, "you cannot enforce a prohibitory law. Grant the argument's sake, that the law cannot be enforced, perfectly enforced, so to speak, advantageous, exceeding so, to put the educative power of the law against evil. An unenforced right is a law infinitely better than an enforced law that gives half sanction to the wrong. It is never wise to legalize a fragment of wrong in order to suppress the remainder. In the end the experiment will be found always disastrous.

"But you confound things that are simply dangerous. We prohibit a few things that are dangerous. A bawdy-house is wicked; a saloon is dangerous." Again, for argument's sake, grant this distinction. It is true that we never prohibit things that are dangerous. We prohibit the building of frame houses inside the fire line. Why? Not because the building of a house is sinful, but because it is dangerous. In localities we prohibit absolutely slaughter houses, bone factories, powder mills, etc., solely because these things are dangerous. Prove the same to be always a menace to the public welfare, and you have ground sufficient for prohibition. And is it not such a measure? Permit me to quote what I have published elsewhere:

The liquor traffic is a stupendous injury to society and to our Government, and is a grotesque and continuous menace to both; responsible, according to Chief Justice Noah Davis, to eighty per cent, of all crime; according to Premier Gladstone, for the infliction of war, scourges, war, famine and pestilence, combined; according to the late eminent physician, Dr. Willard Parker, for 35 per cent, of insanity, 45 per cent, of idioy, 77 to 90 per cent, of pauperism, 10 per cent, of deaths; according to the New York Tribune, "this traffic lies at the center of all political and social mischief, saps the energies in every direction, it weakens educational agencies, it silences the voice of religion, it baffles penal reform, it obstructs political reform;" according to Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, so intimately connected with the traffic with crime in England—and therefore is certainly true in almost equal degree in America—"If we could make England sober we would shut up nine tenths of her prisons; and according to the London Times, it is an evil of such vast and growing magnitude that it may crash and ruin us all."

If a government was ever justified in prohibiting a thing that was dangerous, our government would be justified certainly in prohibiting the liquor traffic. Since this traffic is such a monster evil, what wisdom is there in keeping the tremendous educating power of the law on its side? Whatever else is done or left undone in reference to this traffic, let the business be made an outlaw.

[I. K. FUNK, in North American Review.]

A large county convention of persons in favor of the prohibition amendment met in Clearfield on Tuesday. All the different temperance and political organizations of the county were represented, and a permanent organization was effected. The executive committee is composed of prominent Republicans, Democrats and Prohibitionists, among which are the chairman of these respective political parties. The county is expected to give 1,000 majority for the amendment.

The new engine imported from England by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is now at Altoona. It will be kept together at the company's shops at that place, and will then be tested on the road. The trial trip will be probably made in a few weeks. The engine has been purchased by the railroad company and will be used regularly on the road.

The temperance people of Juniata county, met the other day in conference, and took steps towards a campaign for the constitutional amendment. Representatives of all political parties were present. Ex-Sheriff Deibach, a life-long Democrat, presided. The tide is rising.