

Walleman

The Centre



Democrat.

VOL. 11.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1889.

NO. 10.

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - EDITOR.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
Regular Price \$1.50 per year.
When Paid in Advance \$1.00 "
When subscriptions are not paid inside of three years \$2.00 will be charged.
These terms will be strictly adhered to in every case.

Democratic County Committee, 1889.

- Bellefonte, N. W. C. M. Bower
 - W. W. Patrick Garrett
 - Joseph W. Gross
 - Centre Hall Borough J. W. McCormick
 - Howard Borough M. I. Gardner
 - Millsburg Borough J. Willis Weaver
 - Milheim Borough C. W. Hartman
 - Phillipsburg 1st W. J. D. Ritter
 - 3d W. J. H. Billee
 - 5d W. Jackson Gorton
 - Unionville Borough L. J. Ring
 - Bender W. P. Schuchman
 - Boggs, N. P. Philip Confer
 - W. P. T. F. Adams
 - E. P. H. L. Barakat
 - College Daniel Grove
 - Curtin T. S. DeLong
 - Ferguson, E. P. John T. McCormick
 - W. P. Samuel Harper Jr.
 - Gregg, S. P. Geo. B. Crawford
 - N. P. J. C. Roessman
 - Haines, E. P. J. A. Rowersson
 - W. P. C. A. Weaver
 - Haltmoon Wm. Bailey
 - Harris C. C. Meyer
 - Howard Frank Dietz
 - Huston John Q. Miles
 - Liberty D. W. Herring
 - Marion Harry McNeill
 - Miles J. J. Gramley
 - Patton D. L. Meek
 - Penn. W. F. Smith
 - Porter, N. P. G. L. Goodheart
 - S. P. Hugh McCann
 - Rush, S. P. R. C. Wilson
 - S. P. Wm. T. Hoover
 - Snow Shoe, W. P. Patrick Kelly
 - E. P. R. J. Hayes, Jr.
 - Spring J. N. Brooks
 - Taylor Wm. T. Hoover
 - Union Aaron Fahr
 - Walker J. H. McCauley
 - Worth Levi Reese
- WM. C. HEINLE, Chairman.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

A BILL RECENTLY INTRODUCED AT HARRISBURG.

An Important Measure, that Should be Adopted.—Some of the Features of the Bill.—Do we Need it?

Abil relating to compulsory education was introduced in the Legislature on Monday last by Representative Ritter of Philadelphia. The bill appears to have been framed after the pattern of the New York law. It proposes that compulsory education shall be enforced upon all children between the ages of 7 and 12, who will be required to attend some public day school all through the school term, and that truant officers shall have power to enforce the law. The parents or guardians of such children will be held responsible, and for every week of neglect they shall pay a fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$20. But if the child is physically unable to comply with the law by continuous attendance at school, then such a penalty will not be enforced. Of the five truant officers three are to be women who shall have charge of all cases of delinquency. Each truant officer will receive a salary of \$1,000. These officers are empowered to enter any office or mercantile establishment, factory, manufactory, or industry of any kind and demand the perusal of the certificate of any child they may think of the age from 7 to 12 years.

There can be no doubt that the education of the rising generation is a duty incumbent on the government, both national state and municipal. The first duty of a parent is the proper education of the young, and when the parent either wilfully or from any other cause neglect to perform this necessary duty, the work then becomes one of necessity and also compulsory. No community can afford to allow its citizens to grow up in ignorance. Every citizen should be required to have enough of a common school education as to enable him to intelligently fulfill the duties of a citizen. Universal suffrage should not be based on ignorant suffrage, for the moral and political safety of a nation and of a community and of a family depends largely on its intelligence. A republic will endure and become permanent in the degree in which its citizens know and understand the requirements of a civilization which prevails. An ignorant suffrage is always dangerous, and always at the mercy of the designing and those who seek to attain their ends by disorder and violence. The street Arab may pick up a few pence, but he does it at the expense of his education and his chances of achievement; and his parents or guardians should be held responsible for not doing their duty.—Ez

As President Cleveland passes from public to private life, says the Philadelphia Ledger, it is but the merest justice for men of all parties to cordially concede that his administration, though not free from errors of judgement has been one honorable to him and creditable to his country. His discharge of duty has been faithful his conduct honest and patriotic, his industry and zeal unquestioned and unquestionable, his courage too great for his success. During his entire term of office neither his personal nor official integrity has been impugned; his conduct of affairs, foreign and domestic, has been conservative, and has resulted in the common prosperity of the country. President Cleveland retires from his high office worthy the continued respect and confidence of the people whom for four years he has so faithfully, devotedly served, and we do not doubt that in the coming years the general respect of his countrymen for his courageous and upright administration of the affairs of the government will increase, and that into his retirement he will be followed by the grateful sense of their appreciation of all the good he has, with high conscience and patriotic purpose, wrought in their behalf.

CAN PROHIBITION WIN.

Estimates of a Man Who Has Visited Forty Counties of Pennsylvania.
A gentleman of Pittsburg after visiting forty counties in all parts of the State to look after the prospects of the prohibitory amendment, returned home yesterday. He says the opinion is generally entertained that the State west of the Susquehanna will give 60,000 majority for the amendment, and that Philadelphia will give about the same majority the other way. The rest of the State will be close. It is his opinion that the amendment will be defeated by 10,000 or 15,000 majority.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.

M. De Tchihatchef, a Russian writer, asserts that the average flow of petroleum in the Baku region is 88,000 barrels per day, as against 25,300 barrels in the United States. The chief drawbacks encountered by those who have worked the Baku oil fields have been lack of transportation and want of cheap package. A railway to Batoum, on the Black Sea, opened two maritime routes to Europe, and met the first difficulty. Cars and vessels constructed to carry crude oil met the last, and enabled refineries to be built in the interior of the empire where ever fuel might be cheapest. It is confidently predicted, since the completion of the Batoum Railway, that Russian oil will displace American in European markets, and that it will even be possible for the Russian product to compete for the markets of the United States. M. De Tchihatchef points out a probable demand in the near future for petroleum to serve as fuel on the great lines of railway completed and still building in Asia.

TRYING TO BULLDOZE MINERS.

The Lackawanna region miners are greatly stirred up over the attempt made by the Delaware and Lackawanna and Western company through its bosses to coerce them into withdrawing their request for a reduction in the cost of powder. Every miner was approached by these men and asked to consent to lower the price per car for mining coal, cross-cutting and tunnel work, in which case the cost of powder would come down. Similar action was taken by the Pennsylvania Coal Company, but the miners spurned the interrogatories and in some cases drove the company's interviewers from the chambers. The matter has made the miners more determined than ever to gain the powder reduction, and a clash may soon occur that will involve all the 40,000 miners of the Wyoming and Lackawanna towns.

The high tariff policy was endorsed at the recent Presidential election and President Harrison has taken his seat. During that campaign high wages continued work and general prosperity were the benefits to be derived but their promises have not been realized. Laboring men in the iron and coal industries over the country have been reducing wages and running on half time. The same thing exists in this section and the laboring men are disgusted.
Four years from now, 1892, another Presidential election will take place and the laboring classes will be implored to vote the straight Republican ticket as that will insure (?) high wages in the future. Will they do it? Have they not seen that they were bulldozed by the politicians last fall?

FARMERS AGAINST PROHIBITION.

At a public meeting of farmers at Schaefferstown Berks county, last week the drift of the argument was that the passage of the Prohibition amendment would lead to bankruptcy and ruin among the agricultural classes. Another meeting will be held in a few days, when steps will be taken to hold meetings in every township in the county, and effect a thorough anti-Prohibition organization.

It seems to be an assured fact that the children attending the McAllisterville school have been systematically starved. One of the ex-students writes the Philadelphia Press that the boys and girls are fed on bread and molasses; that they become greatly reduced and impoverished on account of being obliged to subsist on poor diet, and that the students are not permitted to make known their treatment to visitors. Under such circumstances it is time for the Soldiers' Orphans' School to go.

The threat that the liquor dealers will defy the prohibitory amendment and continue to sell liquor in the event of its adoption should have no terrors for temperance people. They daily violate the present license law, and it is difficult to detect them, because they have a right to sell to certain persons. But it will be difficult under an arrangement which makes every sale of liquor as a beverage an offense against the state.

The death of James C. Flood at Heidelberg leaves his daughter, Miss Jennie Flood, who was with him at the time of his death, probably the richest woman in the world. When the bonanza mines were at its zenith of their prosperity Mr. Flood gave his daughter \$2,500,000 in United States bonds at one time as a birthday present.

CLAIM AGENTS AT WASHINGTON.

Some interesting facts concerning the development of the claim business have come to light in the discussion in Congress during the past week. In recent years a class of lawyers, unknown to the capital before the war, have come to be very numerous in Washington. These are what are known as "Claim Agents." They hunt up all the old claims in the Department, get the names of persons to whom money may possibly be due, send them circulars and offer to collect the amount for a small percentage. It is stated that there are now pending before the department claims to the amount of over a hundred million dollars, exclusive pensions. A large percentage of these are probably bogus, or have no substantial foundation—But these agents work up testimony in support of them, and then go to Congress and get special acts passed.

The greater part of this business relates to pension claims. During the last session of Congress about twelve hundred special pension bills were introduced, the greater part of which were drafted by claim agents. It seems that they have recently dug up claims in the Navy Department aggregating over a million dollars for extra pay to officers who were serving on receiving or training ships in harbors. These officials had no knowledge that they were in any way entitled to such pay and really they have no just claim to it; but the agents seem to have induced the Auditors of the Treasury Department to allow them and having obtained copies of all the names of all the officials for the last half a century, they are now busy collecting evidence to obtain this money, and a large sum has already been paid out.

It is very evident that Congress ought to do something to stop this business. There should be a statute of limitations on all claims. A claim that is not presented within three or four years after its maturity ought never to be presented. This business of drawing the Treasury to pay bogus claims in order to make a certain class of slyster lawyers rich ought to be stopped and will be stopped if Congress does its duty.—N. Y. News.

The rain continued to fall almost incessantly on the last day of Democratic rule of four years, thus giving the incoming party a fresh and muddy start, and judging from the material of which the cabinet is to be constructed, the workings of their administration may not be traced from one end of the country to the other, by the foot marks made in the beginning. "Solomon learned wisdom from the bees," so might the rulers of modern times take a lesson by closely studying the administration just closed. Prosperity has been an inhabitant here for four long years, our mills and furnaces have flourished, new industries have sprung up on every hand, while those who were willing to work had little or no trouble in earning an honest living. That this will be the state of things four years hence, we have no assurance. Already can be heard the complaint of workingmen against the reduction of wages, threats to close mills and broken promises made a few months ago by those who saw and pointed out to working men destruction, to American industry, should the administration fail to pass into the hand of the party then not in power. To intelligent men this was an argument that was met with the contempt it so richly deserved. Yet there was, and there still is, another class who were misled and whose lot it will be to suffer, should misfortune overtake our now prosperous institutions, that this may not occur is the wish of every true man regardless of politics or party connections. Yet by the corrupt practices of the past the people of this nation have cause to fear, as the unrelenting spoilsmen of the republican party have again make their appearance and will soon be clamoring loudly to plunder the national treasury.

General Goff, the Republican candidate for Governor of West Virginia and President Carr, of the Senate, the Democratic candidate, both took the oath of office on Monday and demanded from Governor Wilson possession of the office. The latter said that he was of the opinion that the Legislature, as a coordinate department of the government in joint assembly, had exclusive jurisdiction to ascertain and declare the result of the election and no title would come from any other source. He therefore felt it his duty to continue in charge.

The saw-mill of B. Meritt & Co., in Cooper township Clearfield county, was destroyed by fire on the 26th ult. Loss \$4,000; insurance \$1,500.

NEAL DOW ON PROHIBITION.

HOW A LIFE LONG WORKER VIEWS IT.

Prohibition Needed—The People are in Favor of It—It Can be Enforced—License A Failure in England.

"Is Prohibition a wise policy?"
Why is all the civilized world moving in some way against the liquor traffic? The answer is simple: because it is in consistent with the general good. As it flourishes, every legitimate industry languishes and dies. It disinclines to honest and continuous work all who come under its influence, and finally unfit them for it. There is no interest, public or private, which it does not antagonize. There is no home in the country that does not suffer in some way, directly or indirectly, from its touch, which blasts everything coming within its grasp. It wastes the wages of labor, which ought to go to the homes of the workers; it breaks down the health and shortens the lives of the people, which is a great social misery and a public disaster. It diminishes and wastes to an extent beyond all power of computation the power of the Nation, physical, moral, financial. It inflicts upon Nation and people more and greater evils than come from all other causes of evil combined. At the same time no good whatever comes from it to the community. The inevitable tendency of the saloon, whatever its name, location, magnitude, or adornments may be, is to drive out from among the people every good thing, and to substitute for it everything bad, and so bad that nothing else in the world is or can be so bad.

All over the English speaking world the people are actively seeking some remedy for this tremendous mischief, and many are the schemes suggested to that end by educated, able and well-meaning men. Let us establish it by law as an honest and useful industry, and perpetuate it through all coming time, some of these people say. Since we can't suppress it, let us regulate and restrict it by "high license," others say, and when public opinion will sustain such a measure we can prohibit and suppress it. To repress it in any way, say others, is to interfere with personal liberty, and to assume powers not delegated by the people to the government, but which they have reserved to themselves. Now, what is it wise to do about it?

Under no form of license has the liquor traffic ever been "restricted" nor its volume diminished, because under that policy the demand for liquor, whatever it might be, was fully supplied. Many intelligent people have a horror of what they call "free rum." What is the worst that can possibly come from that? This, and nothing more: That the demand for liquor will be fully supplied, and the same thing will happen under any system of license, however carefully the law may be drawn. No one who has any knowledge of this matter, either personal or from books, can be ignorant of the fact that the liquor traffic licensed is practically "free rum." There is no other country in the world where the policy of license has been more firmly established, or where the laws relating to it have been so carefully studied and elaborated as in England. At every session of Parliament there are bills brought in with a view to the changing in some way the law of license, under which the country has become one of the most drunken nations in the world, the condition of a large proportion of the working population there having become as the result of this policy almost unendurable.

Looking the ground all over carefully, we "fanatical" temperance men and women have come to the conclusion, unanimously and irrevocably, that under no circumstances nor for any consideration will we consent to any policy giving legal status to the saloon. So far as our voice and vote are concerned, it shall have no standing under the law, but shall be put under its ban. If we cannot have it forbidden and suppressed we will not consent that it shall have legal permission or protection. Whatever evil to society may come from it, let it be without sanction of the State.

It seems to follow from all this that we are quite ready to declare prohibition to be a wise policy; that it is the only wise policy; and that no other has even a suspicion of wisdom in it. I do not forget that many able men affirm that prohibition has been a failure everywhere and must always continue to be so, and that it is a folly to persist in a policy which practically has come to nothing. People who talk in that way have no knowledge of the matter of which they speak, and this is the only

question, I think, upon which such men would venture an opinion without knowing something about it.

Prohibition has failed nowhere that it has ever been adopted; that is everywhere it has diminished the volume of the liquor traffic, and from large areas of country it has driven out entirely drinking houses and tipping shops. These results of prohibition have been widely printed and published a thousand times all over the English speaking world, and it is not a credit to any intelligent man that he is ignorant of a matter which more deeply than any other touches the highest interests of nations and peoples. This being so, then how, it, objectors may inquire, that in Maine and in many other districts, where prohibition exists, the liquor traffic still lingers on a scale larger or smaller, more or less on the sly, especially in cities and large towns?

The answer is simple and ready. Liquor is sold in violation of law, not for the fun of it, but for the profit. There has never yet been constructed any prohibitory law with reference to this fact and to meet this point, to wit: To make it unprofitable and exceedingly uncomfortable to those who persist in violating it. The able men to whom I have alluded who object to prohibition as impractical, seem to assume that any law which simply forbids the liquor traffic is in fact "prohibitory," irrespective of the character and quality of its machinery. The steam engine, the ocean steamer, the steam printing press, are a great success, and this is due only to the fact that their machinery is constructed and arranged with reference to the work they have to perform. Everybody not quite an innocent can easily see this. Very well, then, why have not the Prohibitionists arranged their laws with reference to this point? The innocents ask this question, and coming from them, it is a proper one and should be answered.

When the Maine Law was constructed it was supposed that public opinion might not approve such penalties as would fully meet the necessities of the case, and they were therefore made moderate to avoid that danger. All other prohibitory laws have been more or less modeled on that pattern. But all our experience in the enforcement of these laws has emphasized the fact, that they are imperfect in having insufficient penalties, and in permitting such discretions to the courts that in many localities the law is practically nullified. Why, then, the innocent may properly inquire, do we not have these imperfections corrected and these wants supplied?

The politics of the country, in nation, states, and cities, is now a mere scramble for office and its rewards, with no reference whatever to the public welfare. The liquor traffic is a tremendous power, from its magnitude, its wealth, its large vote, which is a unit, employed only in its own interest, and from its ability to corrupt voters with its money and party leaders by its ballots. From this it happens that now, so far as its interests are concerned, it controls absolutely the legislation of the nation and of the states and cities; so we find it difficult everywhere, and in Maine impossible, for the moment, to obtain such legislation as we require for the extermination of the fraction of the liquor traffic yet remaining. This traffic now notoriously controls the politics of the country. In the near future two great parties will be openly and squarely divided upon the question—Rum or No Rum? and the battle will be fought out at the ballot-box on that line. All other questions of public policy of whatever kind are insignificant when compared with this.

Protection to the labor of the country from foreign competition, so that our people may have larger wages, locks only to this point, that our homes may be peaceful, prosperous, thrifty, happy, from a larger expenditure upon the necessities, comforts and refinements of life. The suppression of the liquor traffic, which politicians resist, would insure all this beyond the wildest dreams of the warmest imagination, since it would involve a saving to our families of more than fifteen hundred million dollars annually—a sum so vast as to be incomprehensible—now spent, lost, far worse than wasted in drink.

NEAL DOW.

At the late election in Lancaster county the Republicans nominated in one of their strongest towns a colored man for a township office. He was defeated and the Democratic candidate elected by Republican votes. Republicans raised the race issue to defeat the man and brother and succeeded in doing so. But the R () friends of the negro" all the same!