

# The Centre Democrat.

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## The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - EDITOR.

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### Editorial.

TEN years ago the superintendent of an Iowa railroad booted a tramp out of his office for having the cheek to ask for a pass. To-day that tramp is the superintendent of that same road, while the man who lifted him on his boot keeps a restaurant and sends him over lunches.

It is claimed that seventy-eight million dollars are annually paid out for intoxicating drinks in this State. That is two million dollars more than is received from all the miners products annually mined both of iron and coal, that requires the labor of tens of thousands of men to produce.

The Wilkesbarre News-dealer says: "These are facts and figures that may well startle and stagger every citizen of this State. The question then naturally arises, what would be the result if this annual expenditure of so great an amount of money was taken from the liquor traffic and put into other channels of business and trade? Here is a field of study for someone who can give it time and thought.

In many particulars President Harrison's era contrasts most favorably with that of General Washington a hundred years ago. The latter never saw a locomotive or a train of palace cars; never dreamed of electric wires under the ocean, or their application to a thousand uses over every nook and corner in the land. The ocean was still traversed by sailing vessels, requiring many weeks to make a voyage. There was neither gas nor coal oil or electricity employed in illuminating houses. The age of steam had not yet come in. Coal had not yet become a factor in modern life. These are only a few of the things with which President Washington was unacquainted.—Ex.

The New York newspapers didn't take kindly to the Pennsylvania National Guard on the occasion of the centennial parade because our boys were not arrayed in gaudy attire. However, General Sherman, who knows a soldier when he sees one, and whose commendation is more valuable than any newspaper gush, has this to say of the National Guards. "The Pennsylvania division is entitled to praise, for it came nearer to being a compact body of troops ready for the field than any other state National Guard. They were no holiday soldiers. The system in vogue by which the Pennsylvania troops can be mobilized at short notice should be adopted by every state in the union."

NICELY STATED. The Philadelphia Leader, Child's paper, which seldom says anything good about the Democrats, scored the following one day last week: "The Democrats came up smiling and hopeful in the municipal elections throughout the West. It is surprising what a degree of vitality is possessed by the party even in the strongest Republican cities. The dispiriting defeat of last November appears to have been forgotten, and the Democrats, driven or about to be driven out of the Federal offices, are ready to comfort themselves with municipal or other offices not sufficiently guarded against assault."

Mrs. Cleveland is still the admired of all admirers. Read this incident of the Centennial ball:

The Clevelands had occupied a box near the President during the reception and the opening quadrille. After the departure of the President and Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland came down on the floor to promenade. No sooner did the crowd catch sight of them than they were surrounded with people, as anxious to see Mrs. Cleveland apparently as they had been when she was a White House bride. Some one started the applause. It grew until with a cheer the entire crowd swept down on the Clevelands, forcing them against the boxes. At this moment some one in an upper box broke a bouquet and showered roses on Mrs. Cleveland's head. The crowd cheered again and again. For quite a time Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland held a reception on the floor of the ball room, and during all that time they were the centre of attraction.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

MAMMOTH COAST VESSELS TO BE BUILT AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Okalahoma Land Grabbers in Trouble—Harrison Gives His Brother an Office—Extra Session of Congress.

(From our regular correspondent.)

The Pacific coast has captured the biggest thing yet given out by the present administration. It is the contract to build the mammoth armored coast defense vessel that was provided for by the last Congress, which has been awarded by the Navy Department to the Union Iron Works of San Francisco. Ex-Secretary Whitney is entitled to the credit of having made it possible to build such a vessel on the Pacific coast by the recognition he gave to the enterprise of the California capitalists that established this plant for the building of iron and steel vessels. The price of the new vessel is to be \$1,528,000.

The United States officials that went into the land-grabbing business in Oklahoma have been called upon to explain their actions to the Interior Department.

Among the few appointments that Harrison has found time to make since his return from the New York celebration was that of his brother, Carter B. Harrison, to be United States Marshal for the middle district of Tennessee. If Mr. Cleveland had appointed his brother to a position every Republican editor in the country would have roared for months but they will discreetly overlook this little bit of nepotism. Verily it does make a difference whose ox is gored.

Army courts seem to have rather queer ideas in regard to making the "punishment fit the crime." Maj. Lydecker, who was the engineer in charge of the Washington aqueduct tunnel has been found guilty by a court martial on several counts of having neglected his duty as an official etc. And the said neglect has cost a million dollars that have been spent on the tunnel which has now been abandoned. Pretty serious crime one would think and deserving of severe punishment. What does the Court Martial say? That Maj. Lydecker shall be fined \$100. per month for nine months and be reprimanded in general orders. Could anything be more ludicrous. An officer by neglect and carelessness sacrifices \$1,000,000 and deprives a city of a much needed increase of water supply, and is fined \$900 therefore. Reader perhaps you may wonder why this sentence was made so light. It can be answered in two words, social influence which is the strongest of all powers in Washington.

Senator orman it is generally thought will succeed the late W. H. Barnum as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Republican office seekers say that President Harrison has as much trouble to arrive at a definite decision as to making an appointment as did the hungry ass that fable says starved to death between two bundles of hay because he could not decide which to go to.

According to Senator Ingalls, President Harrison will call an extra session of Congress to meet early in October in order to get the House organized and in order before the Christmas recess. Ingalls speaks as though the matter had been definitely settled by the President.

"DID it ever occur to you," said a dry goods man the other day, "what a great boom John Wanamaker's wholesale business must be nowadays? There are some 60,000 or 70,000 in the country and I suppose that 50,000 of them are in small country stores. Don't you think that when John Wanamaker's drummer comes around to one of these stores he has a pretty good chance of getting an order? I'll bet that there are not a hundred such postmaster storekeepers within a thousand miles of Philadelphia who do not buy all they can at Wanamaker's nowadays, and even in more distant parts of the country the postmasters will stretch a point whenever they can to send to Philadelphia for their goods. Suppose a man wants to be reappointed, don't you think he will imagine that it will be a good thing for him to be able to refer Postmaster General Wanamaker for information as to his credit and business standing. Of course the postmasters in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred will be wrong in it, but they have the idea all the same that Wanamaker will know the name and all about every man who buys goods of him and they will act accordingly. It will be Wanamaker's own fault if he hasn't the largest wholesale business in the country within the next four years."

## GIVE THE SCHOOL TEACHERS A CHANCE.

Wisconsin is in advance in recognition of the superannuated school teacher, having passed a pension bill which pays the teacher a moiety of the public fund after twenty-one years service. This is not in line with the best interests of the school teacher. Were they properly treated while in effective service there would be no occasion to place them on a pension list in their old age. What is most necessary in dealing with this most important of all the professions is an assurance of responsible security or tenure of position, capability and worthiness only considered. As it is, the public school teacher is at the caprice of the powers that be. This or that Controller, elected to his place by the grace of a political power, has his selfish ends to serve quite frequently, and oftentimes a faithful, competent teacher is obliged to give place to a favorite whose qualifications may be entirely a matter of doubt. Hereby peculiar hardships are sometimes precipitated and great injustice is done. The teacher has gone to much expense of time and money to fit herself for her vocation, engages in it for her life work, and is by reason of her singleness of purpose and special training, disqualified from earning a livelihood in any other way with comfort or profit to herself. She should not be thrown out of her life work by a caprice of a School Board or the selfishness of a politician. In the struggle for a living she should be accorded an even chance with the members of any other vocation, mechanical commercial or professional. This un-der the present organization of society the schoolmaster has not. He does not know how soon his professional head will be taken away. This should be remedied by law. A tenure of office act, having special application to teachers against which the fortunes of politics or special favor will have no effect, should be enacted at the earliest moment. With a reasonable chance in the contest for bread and butter the competent school teacher is willing to take the chances of a living in advanced age. Under other conditions a gratuity in the shape of a pension would simply be a lotion for the conscience of a people who have not done their whole duty by their teachers.

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

In a speech recently made in the Legislature by Representative Weber, of Clearfield county, he showed that while the population of Pennsylvania in the ten years from 1870 to 1880 was increased 22 per cent, the number of schools 51 per cent, and the number of teachers 22 per cent, there was no corresponding advance in public morality or in the betterment of the conditions of living. During the same time there was an increase of pauperism and crime of 41 per cent, and an increase of crime, exclusive of pauperism, of 53 per cent. There was also an increase of 112 per cent. in the number of insane persons. It is no satisfaction to be further informed that there was an increase of 13 per cent. in the number of criminals who, having left school at an average age of 14 years, were able to read and write. The improved education of these persons seems to show that they grew in wickedness as they grew in knowledge.

Representative Weber collated these statistics from the census and the reports of the State Board of Public Charities. They make a deplorable showing. The teachers in the public schools are sufficiently burdened in imparting the rudiments of knowledge. They cannot be expected to inculcate the virtues. This is the neglected office of parents and of the churches. They are to blame for the falling off. To teach children to read and write will not keep them from lying or stealing. A wicked man may be all the more wicked and dangerous by reason of his education. Mr. Weber is right in asserting that compulsory education is no cure for crime.

Messrs. R. G. Davies and Harry Bush, the Union Roofing Co., of Tyrone, whose ad. can be found in the DEMOCRAT were in town Saturday last looking after business matters and taking orders. They report business brisk and have all the work they can attend to. If you intend to build get their prices for slate roofing.

Major D. B. Kurtz, of San Luis Ray, California, paid us a pleasant call on Tuesday. Mr. Kurtz was formerly of Lancaster, Pa., and left that section in 49 for the gold fields of California; he is making his first visit to his eastern home which he left forty years ago. He is well acquainted with Chas. McClure, formerly of Belleville, now in California.

## ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—You can save fully 25 per cent. by visiting the Rochester Clothing House.

—All the latest styles in foot wear can be seen at Mingles shoe store. Prices lower than ever.

—Editor Feidler is in Washington this week looking after that little p. m., boom and for the sake of having a time with the boys.

—Rev. Chas. T. Steck, of South Williamsport, has been selected as one of the lecturers for the course at Chautauqua next summer.

—\$300 a month and expenses for a County Manager in each county in Pennsylvania. The Standard Book Co. 42 Coal Exchange, Scranton, Pa. J-4.

—A rowdy who was put in Tyrone lock-up recently, broke up his bunk and, using one of the planks as a lever beneath the door, pried himself to freedom.

—\$50 per month and board for a bright young man or lady in each town in Pennsylvania. The Standard Book Co., 42 Coal Exchange, Scranton, Pa. J-4.

—Mr. G. B. Brandon, of the Brokerhoff House, spent a week taking in the New York Centennial and is back chock full of new stories and amusing incidents which he only can tell with effect.

—Lieutenant Col. H. S. Hale, of this place, sent in his resignation to the 5th regiment recently. He has not been enjoying good health of late and was unable to attend to the duties of that position.

—Mr. Chas. Rhone, son of Dr. J. W. Rhone, is home again, expecting to remain, having been graduated from the Dental department at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He expects to remain with his father and assist him in the profession.

—Mr. R. B. Harrison, of Pleasant Gap, Centre county, brother of W. T. Harrison, of this place, arrived in Hastings last Saturday. Mr. Harrison will engage in the bakery and confectionery with his brother, "Billy," and as soon as the weather permits they will finish their store and dwelling.—Hastings Herald.

—Prof. J. Stanley Grimes, a temperance lecturer was in town this week and lectured on Monday evening for the benefit of the cause. A few people constituted the audience and on Tuesday evening some two or three dropped into the Y. M. C. A. hall to hear his second address. The people of Belleville are getting tired of temperance harangues.

—James O'Bryan, who has been kept at home the last month by a severe attack of rheumatism is able to be about again. Jim says he can't understand why such hard working and industrious people like himself should be afflicted when these worthless editors in town are allowed to go free. Jimmy, you must have rats in your attic.

—One of the finest grocery stores in Belleville is the one opened recently by Dunkle & Fortney, on Allegheny street. Their entire stock is new and fresh and tempting. They have everything arranged in a neat and tidy manner and are prepared to wait on their friends and customers. They pay the highest market prices for all kinds of produce and sell their goods at the lowest figure. When in Belleville don't fail to visit Dunkle & Fortney's new store.

—Belleville has been selected by the Faculty of Princeton College as one of the places where local examinations for entrance into that college will be held. These examinations are held in Chicago, San Francisco, St. Louis, Washington, New York and other cities and large towns for the purpose of lighting the expenses of students living at remote points from Princeton. The first examination will be held in Belleville on June 20th, under the supervision of J. P. Hughes and all young men of the central part of Pennsylvania who desire to enter Princeton this June will be admitted to these examinations held in Belleville.

—On Thursday, April 18th, at her residence in Zion, this county, Mrs. Mary Decker, wife of Samuel Decker, died after an illness of but a few days, having attained the age of 63 years. The deceased lady was born near Zion and a few years ago became a resident of Zion where she lived until her death. She became a member of the Lutheran church when 18 years old and was an exemplary lady. The deceased enjoyed the love of a large circle of friends as well as the confidence and esteem of all who were fortunate enough to enjoy her acquaintance. Her maiden name was Miss Mary Shaffer. She leaves a husband to mourn her loss. Funeral services were held in the Lutheran church on Monday, 18th, by Rev. Land.

## A BIT OF HISTORY.

MILLIONAIRE DUBOIS OF CLEARFIELD AND COAL OIL JOHNNY.

A Short Sketch of Their Early Career and How They Made Fortunes—By One Who Knew Them.

The following article is taken from the Philadelphia Inquirer and will be of interest to many of our readers:

A little man, with a heavy, drooping mustache on his lip and light slouch hat pulled down on his forehead, sat in the reading room of the Washington House last night vigorously puffing away at a strong cigar. The little man was ex-hotel-keeper Dick Evans, of Dubois, one of the most picturesque characters of Clearfield county. Mr. Evans was in a communicative mood, and anecdotes of the founder of DuBois leaked from him like water through a sieve.

He remembered the old man DuBois for years back, and said the old millionaire was one of the greatest characters he had ever met. It was forty years ago when John DuBois came into Clearfield county from Elmira, N. Y., and began peddling needles and thread. He was thrifty, and in time owned a horse and wagon. Then he began buying up land, and in 1873 he built a mill and founded the present city of DuBois, which now has a population of 8,000 souls.

When the old man died, a short time ago, he left 11,000 acres around DuBois, containing 300,000,000 feet of pine lumber, besides the hemlock, and an 8-foot vein of coal, which is twenty miles in circumference. The estate also includes nine miles of farming land in Beaver meadows with a soil seven feet deep.

Just before the old man died he sold all this valuable property, which is worth over \$8,000,000 as it stands, to his nephew for one dollar. This was to avoid paying the inheritance tax, which would have been necessary had he left the property to his heirs.

The nephew, Mr. Evans says is a rough unassuming young fellow of 24 years, who goes around as though he was working for a dollar a day. Although he owns the fastest pacing mare in the state he nearly always walks, and instead of living in grand style he sleeps in his uncle's old house and takes his meals at the DuBois Hotel.

"In fact he's a rough diamond like Coal Oil Johnny," said Mr. Evans, "without Johnny's extravagances."

This naturally brought up the subject of Coal Oil Johnny, and on this subject Mr. Evans grew eloquent. Mr. Evans began by saying that he hauled oil with Coal Oil Johnny, away back in 1864. "Johnny," he said, "took his name from his mother, who was a Miss Steel. It was always believed that he was the son of old John McClintock. McClintock sold a lot of oil land to speculators in 1864, and shortly afterwards died, leaving his money to his wife and on her death to Johnny Steel. Seth Sloucum, of Erie, was appointed executor. The old woman died shortly after her husband's death, and the exact amount of money Johnny got was \$50,000 in gold and \$44,000 in demand notes, known as "gilt edgers."

"With the high premium at that time the money was worth \$240,000. Sloucum shortly afterward got in trouble through shooting a colored man in Cleveland, but Johnny got him off, and then Johnny and Sloucum went to Elmira, where Johnny began passing the demand notes, dollar for dollar. As they were worth a high premium Johnny was suspected of stealing them and was arrested, but Bill Blackiston, who managed some of his property, and who is now a wealthy iron manufacturer in Sharon, got him off."

Johnny then came to Philadelphia and made his big splurge here. Evans, who accompanied him, said that he remembered well how Johnny bought a hack and team for a cab driver, which killed the cab driver in eleven months, and Johnny's other extravagances, but his spendings were greatly exaggerated, said Mr. Evans, and the total amount he got away with was about \$235,000. His wife managed to save about \$5000. Johnny then worked at Rouseville, in a freight depot, for several years and his wife saved his earnings and added them to the \$5,000 she had saved from Johnny's fortune. They then went West, and when Mr. Evans last heard from Johnny he was running a big cattle ranch in Nebraska and was worth nearly a cool hundred thousand dollars. This was a short time ago.

—Persons wishing to improve their memories or strengthen their power of attention should send to Prof. Loissette, 227 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., for his prospectus post free, as advertised in another column. 4-t.

## HUMES TO BEAVER.

The Governor Called to Account for Sinking Fund Mismanagement.

Ex-State Senator H. J. Humes, of Meadville, has written an open letter to Governor Beaver regarding the alleged mismanagement of the State Sinking Fund, in which he charges that the law is mistaken in the defence put forth by the Governor, and that the letter and the "observant Commissioners have violated both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and the act of Assembly." Mr. Humes goes at length into figures and the law to prove his statements, and concludes in this lively fashion:

What conclusion can the people draw from these facts except that you ~~sell~~ the bonds to distribute their proceeds among favored banks? The law presumes a reasonable creature knows and intends the actual results that follow in acts. Applying this rule to you and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, you and they should have been prosecuted for this flagrant violation of the law or self respect should compel you to resign because of incompetency. This, Governor, is the case of the people of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania against the State Treasury ring that is using their money; the man whom they elected Governor, who refuses to see that the laws are executed and has become a servant of that ring, and that Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, who violate the law with their Governor's consent and approval. Would that you and they loved the people and regarded their rights and interests more than you fear your political masters the State Treasury ring.

## RICH AT A JUMP.

How Big Fortunes Have Been Made Out of Little Inventions.

The New Jersey man who hit upon the idea of attaching a rubber erasing tip to the end of lead pencils is worth \$200,000.

Everyone has seen the metal plates that are used to protect the heels and soles of rough shoes, but everyone does not know that within ten years the man who hit upon the idea has made \$250,000.

As large a sum as was ever obtained for any invention was enjoyed by the Yankee who invented the inverted glass bell to hang over gas jets to protect ceilings from being blackened by smoke.

The inventor of the roller skate has made \$1,000,000.

The gimlet-pointed screw has produced more wealth than most silver mines, and the Conn. man who first thought of putting copper tips on shoes of children's shoes is as well off as if he had inherited \$1,000,000, for that's the amount his idea has realized for him in cold, clammy coin.

The common needle threader, which everyone has seen for sale, and which every woman owns, was a boon to the needle user. The man who invented it has an income of \$10,000 a year from his invention.

A minister in England made \$50,000 by inventing an odd toy that dined by winding it with a string.

The man who invented the return ball, an ordinary wooden ball, with a rubber string attached to pull it back, made \$1,000,000 from it.—Pittsburg Press.

AN Allegheny butcher has discovered that rats have been stealing from his till for the last year. Saturday a \$10 dollar bill disappeared and \$5, which he then placed in the drawer as a bait, was also soon among the missing. He made an examination and found part of the five-dollar note in a rat hole leading from the back of the drawer to the ice box. This encouraged him and he made further searches, opening the side of the box, where he found enough fragments of currency to fill a half peck measure. He took the "find" to the custom house and the officials there in a short time succeeded in matching bits to the extent of \$126.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.—IN THE COURT OF A Common Pleas of Centre County, Henry L. Dixon vs. Belleville Glass Company, Pt. 22, No. 20 April term, 1889.

The Auditor appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County to distribute the fund arising upon the sale of defendants personal property upon the above *Provis* shows among them legally entitled thereto, will meet all parties interested therein on Friday, May 24th, 1889, at 10 o'clock a. m. at his office, No. 15 Crider's Exchange, for the purpose of making said distribution.

J. B. Linn Auditor.

ORPHANS COURT OF CENTRE COUNTY

In the matter of the estate of Mary A. Pennington. The undersigned an Auditor appointed by said Court to report distribution of the funds in the hands of James H. Carner, Adm. etc., will meet the parties interested in the same on Saturday 25th day of May 1889, at 10 o'clock a. m. when and where all parties interested may attend if they see proper.

C. P. HEWES, Auditor.