

The Centre Democrat.



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The Centre Democrat.

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Editorial.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The coming spring elections will be held on the third Tuesday of February, the 20th of next month. Nominations for borough and township offices must be made at least eighteen days before that date and the same be properly certified to the county commissioners.

In Belleville there are a number of important places to be filled, among which will be chief burgess, tax collector and minor offices. The two positions which most directly affect the people's taxes are town council and tax collector. During the past year Belleville has had a very careful and economical body of councilmen, and the expenses have been kept down to the very lowest notch. While they can dictate when and where the larger portion of the public moneys should be used, another important situation arises. A careful, active and energetic man should fill the position of borough tax collector, to provide the same. The present incumbent, S. D. Ray, Esq., has filled that position for three years and, we must admit, he had many things with which to contend. It is not likely that he will ask for a re-election and a new man will be certain to follow.

While Belleville is usually a republican borough, yet in local affairs the voters take great liberty in selecting officials and do not hesitate on party lines to support a good man when on an opposite ticket.

At the position of tax collector it is well for the public to give this matter timely consideration. In this direction we have a suggestion to make. We believe that the nomination and election of Hugh S. Taylor, to this position, would be a wise move. Mr. Taylor is a young man of good habits, industrious and energetic; and if entrusted with that responsibility would discharge the duties to the greatest satisfaction of all concerned. Coming from the home of an industrious laboringman, and being thoroughly acquainted with those in the humbler walks of life, his experience would enable him to mingle with them and attend to the duties of this office without undue severity. Though while firm, he never would wrongfully distress any one by official exactions.

Hugh S. Taylor is the kind of a young man who deserves public confidence. By his own energies he has advanced himself and promises, in the future, to develop in the legal profession. As a law student, he would have ample time to attend to this position and would greatly appreciate, at this time, the emoluments of the position.

On the other hand the public would be doubly benefitted by the good fortune of having an energetic, live man to gather up the public funds.

The election of Hugh S. Taylor, as tax collector of Belleville, would be a benefit in every way.

Let the thoughtful voter give this matter the consideration it deserves.

JUDGE MAYER, of Clinton county, has cast consternation among the liquor dealers of Lock Haven by refusing a number of saloon licenses. On Thursday he informed the wholesale liquor dealers that they could not sell liquor by the case to private families, and that if he heard of anyone following that practice hereafter their license would be revoked.

For years the democrats taught the doctrine of tariff reform and finally won in the contest. At this time, under the unfavorable condition of business, it is no wonder that some of the weaker ones falter. Tariff reform, if the right policy, and we firmly believe it to be, should be carried into effect as soon as possible. If it is a remedy, give it to the public at once.

Caucus and party primary meetings for the spring election, Tuesday, Feb. 20th, should be held not later than Saturday, January 27th, and the same properly certified to the county commissioners. This is a point worth remembering.

Goods almost given away at Meyer's January sale.

TREASURY DEFICIT.

BROUGHT ABOUT BY EXTRAVAGANCE.

How Harrison's Administration Depleted the United States Treasury—The Democrats Must Face the Trouble.

The present democratic administration, among the many unsavory legacies received from the Harrison regime, has received none of graver importance than the deficit in the national treasury. This deficit is the more appalling in the face of the fact that at the end of Cleveland's former administration there was a large surplus and an income far in excess of the necessary expenses of the government.

During the four years of Cleveland's former administration the receipts of the United States treasury averaged \$368,539,784 per annum and the expenditures \$263,016,472, leaving an average annual surplus of \$105,523,312, or an excess of \$422,096,248 in four years. Of this sum about \$300,000,000 was used to pay on account of the national debt, thus leaving over \$100,000,000 in the treasury on the 4th of March, 1889.

This surplus has all been exhausted and millions of dollars of special funds taken from the treasury and squandered, so that when the present administration took charge of the government they were confronted with a deficit of not less than \$200,000,000 and with appropriations and demands upon the treasury far in excess of the annual income. The average annual expenditures of the Harrison administration were \$392,000,000 which was largely in excess of the income. In this way the surplus accumulated, before March, 1889, under democratic administration, has been squandered and the demands upon the treasury are beyond its possible income. This is one of the legacies turned over to the democratic administration by the republicans. A deficit in the treasury means an increase of the indebtedness of the government, and in plain language the republicans, in four years, ran the country into debt over \$200,000,000. On the other hand, Cleveland's former administration had paid over \$300,000,000 on the then existing indebtedness.

This deficit, increased indebtedness, must be provided for by the present administration, and the only remedy is to issue bonds and place them upon the market. As soon as this proposition was made the republicans raised the cry that "the democrats increased the national debt." This would not be doing anything of the kind, the republicans increased the debt and left it for the democrats to pay. The debt was made by the iniquitous policy of the republican party, and a loan is necessary to meet the deficiency left by the republicans. Centre county people had exactly the same experience. The republican commissioners squandered a nice surplus and left an increased indebtedness which the democrats had to provide for as soon as they came into office. This is the result of republican rule whenever they get into power. Here is food for reflection in all these facts.

Another Decision on the Ballot Law.

Judge Finletter, in the common pleas court, at Philadelphia, rendered a decision Thursday morning, in the contested election case, that practically changes the way in which a voter can mark the ballot. Judge Finletter's decision was: "It is within the keeping of the intention of the act, and the intention of the voter and in aid of the exercise of the franchise of voting, to hold that where the voter marks an individual, and also marks the head of a group, that the marking of the individual shall prevail, and that the marking of the group, so far as the same officers are concerned, shall be inoperative and void."

The nomination of Galusha A. Grow by the republican state convention, last week, was a good move. Boss rule in the republican party has learned one valuable lesson by the defeat of Delemater, they can't force their favorites upon the public. Should Mr. Grow be elected, as congressman-at-large, and there is no doubt of it, we will have the good fortune of a brainy representative at Washington. This may sound somewhat strange in a democratic paper, but it is about the correct statement of the case. A great deal of nonsense can often be avoided by facing facts as they are.

—Merchant tailoring is one of the specialties at the Philadelphia Branch. If you can't buy a suit that will fit you can make one for you on short notice.

THE MEDIA TRAGEDY.

The tragic death of Mrs. Swithine C. Shortridge, at Media, on Sunday, Dec. 31, by being shot in the head several times, by her husband, has caused much comment. The husband for some weeks had been a sufferer from the grip which attacked his nervous system and at periods his mental faculties became affected to such an extent that his actions were simply irrational. It was during one of these periods of mental derangement that he so unfortunately killed his beloved wife. That he was temporarily insane is evident, and since a commission has rendered a verdict to that effect, and he will be taken to the Norristown asylum for proper care and the very best of treatment. The Professor was one of the leading instructors of this state and a man of rare acquirements and ability. Being a brother of our townsman, Wm. Shortridge, he was well known to many of our people who were greatly astounded at this tragic occurrence, and the sad termination of his illness. All can sympathize with the friends in this affliction.

An editorial in a recent issue of the Philadelphia North American gives a very sensible view of this case:

"The worst thing about the Media tragedy is that it could and ought to have been impossible. The unfortunate survivor had the correct view of his condition when he asked to be taken to the Norristown Hospital. It was a lucid thoughtfulness for others that constrained him to ask asylum from something dimly discerned by a mind naturally keen, well-balanced and observant, but hovering on the verge of eclipse. In this instance the patient was wiser than his nurses, and even wiser than his physician, who warned the wife that her husband must be watched lest he inflict injury upon himself. That was a critical moment, and the prescription should have been prompt removal to a hospital where such maladies are treated without risk of life to the patient or to others. Evidently the patient developed suicidal tendencies, and the warning of the physician was based on such knowledge. But suicidal tendencies and homicidal mania are so nearly related that either may become the other at any moment. Undoubtedly tending suicide that fatal morning, and just as undoubtedly, finding his purpose frustrated, he turned in an access of ungovernable rage upon the wife whose watchfulness interfered with his plan."

The world will have to become a great deal wiser and more intelligent before such tragic affairs will become impossible. When a person meets with an accident involving difficult surgery, and there is a hospital near, he is removed to the hospital. Nobody objects to this. Nobody objects to the removal of a typhoid patient who cannot be properly cared for at home to a hospital. We contribute millions yearly in this country for the maintenance of hospitals, evidently recognizing them as necessary and even Christian institutions. Why do we maintain hospitals? Clearly for the treatment of the sick and the injured. Whence is it that the most alarming illness of all to which flesh is heir is the last to be subjected to the enlightened treatment of the hospital created and maintained for that purpose? The reason why is not obscure, and it reflects no credit upon any intelligent community. It is that the profession which is supposed to be devoted to the amelioration of the condition of morbid humanity. Somehow mental aberration is regarded as a disgrace, to be denied and covered up and away from the cognizance of the public. Insanity is an overwhelming misfortune, not a disgrace, and it is an effect of disease wholly confined to the physical man. The diseased body to which insanity sometimes results may be a matter of reproach in some cases, but the reproach does not pertain to insanity. People have yet to learn that there is no disgrace in mental aberration, but only calamity. And the calamity may be in good part averted by prompt treatment and isolation.

The Media tragedy resulted from a long period of overwork and worry, and its first manifestation was to the practiced alienist serious. It should have been promptly treated. So much depends upon taking such cases in time, before any lesion of the brain occurs, that the wonder is that every physician does not advise it at once. But there is this inveterate separation of mental and physical ailments to hinder. The physician in general practice too frequently insists in considering mental and physical morbidity apart. That is not the way to master human ills. They can not be considered apart. They must be taken together, and when so taken before structural change takes place the probabilities are recovery.

This Media tragedy should have been impossible. Some day such tragedies will be so rare that men will look back upon the almost daily list of these times with surprise at the density of lacerated ignorance and the lack of courage in the profession."

Station Agent Appointed.

J. Woods Ferguson, of Jersey Shore has accepted the position of ticket and freight agent for the Central Pennsylvania railway company at Mackeyville, the most important point between Mill Hill and Belleville. Mr. Ferguson is in every way qualified to fill the office.

IT IS WORLD WIDE.

The times are hard in France and England; there is serious distress in Germany and Russia; Spain is bankrupt; the destitution in Italy is something terrific and the Italian people are reported to be on the verge of revolution. Business is at a standstill in India. In South American countries past wars, impending wars, or wars in actual progress and late financial convulsions have uprooted credit and brought on conditions of actual unrelieved suffering quite unknown to the people of this favored country. The business depression throughout the civilized world is reflected in the United States, which is just emerging from the most disastrous and needless money panic the country has ever been called upon to endure. It would not be fair to lay the blame for all this world-wide distress to the scandalous mistakes and extravagances of Republican administration from 1889 to 1893. The contemporaneous depression in other countries shows that the causes bringing it about are general. But the attempt to show that the effect of past and present distress grows out of prospective legislation is met and confuted by fact. Our factories are stopped, our workmen are idle, business is partially paralyzed because of admitted mistakes in legislation and speculation and of extravagance in private and public undertakings for which we are paying the penalty. To put the blame upon those who are called upon to repair damage and find the way out of difficulty may serve the purpose of a party which seeks to shield itself from popular dislike and distrust; but it will deceive no one who does not desire to be deceived.—Record.

REPUBLICANS DISAGREE.

Last fall the republicans of Schuylkill county succeeded by some means in electing their entire county ticket with the exception of the candidate for additional law judge. Sam. Losch, a notorious republican politician and member of the legislature, claimed that it was his superior management that brought about the result which was attained by wholesale frauds and corruption. Losch having been in charge of the campaign which had resulted so favorably, claimed the right to parcel out the offices among the faithful, anywhere. Losch was, in his own mind, the faithful of the faithful. Allen, one of the successful candidates for commissioner, thinks differently, and Losch and his crowd are righteously indignant at what they call the ungrateful conduct of this man Allen. It seems that Allen conducted his campaign in accordance with the most approved republican plan, and a style which met with the entire approval of Losch and the committee. But since Allen has refused to do the bidding of the republican ring, Losch has discovered that Allen is a desperately wicked man, and that he had resorted to all manner of wicked devices to secure his election. On the 28th of December last, Losch went before a justice at Pottsville and made an information against Allen, charging "that Allen did, while being a candidate for county commissioner, violate the election laws by payments of money and promise of office and other gain, and by soliciting votes by bribery and corruption." Allen was arrested and entered bail for his appearance at court. Allen says if he is prosecuted, he will expose all of the methods used by Losch and his crowd during the last campaign. That is the right thing to do. Turn on the light and expose these republican rascals, and their unsavory methods. This is just another instance of the many practices of republican crookedness in order to gain power.

Four Eclipses This Year.

During the year 1894 there will be four eclipses, two of the sun and two of the moon. An annual eclipse of the sun will occur April 5th, and a total eclipse September 28th, but the both will be invisible in any part of America. A partial eclipse of the moon will occur March 21st, but will not be generally visible in the United States. Another partial eclipse of the moon will take place on September 14th and 15th and will be visible in all parts of America.

In Tyrone the school directors threaten to prosecute anyone furnishing school boys under 16 years of age with cigarettes. This is a good move if it is only vigorously carried out.

EVERY man who neglects his business and falls invariably attributes it to the prospective Wilson Bill.

—You certainly need a new overcoat this winter. Remember that the Philad. Branch keeps them.

AT THE COURT HOUSE.

A FEW BRIEF ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Appointments in the Commissioners Office—The Deputy Sheriff—Judge Furst Cleaning up the Docket—Election Commission.

Argument court was in session the greater portion of last week.

Prothonotary Wm. F. Smith says he expects to have his family move from Millheim to Belleville this coming spring. Keeping house at Millheim and attending to an office in Belleville is not the proper way of living.

Justice of the Peace Samuel Foster is able to be about again, looking slightly paler from his tussle with the grip.

In our review of the county offices last week we neglected to mention that the county commissioners, who had been re-elected, were likewise legally qualified for the full performance of their duty for the coming three years. The board was re-organized with G. L. Goodhart president. The course of Messrs. Goodhart, Adams and Strohm, during the past three years has been in the right direction and always looking to the interest of the tax payers. Robt. F. Hunter was unanimously re-elected commissioners' clerk. He has proven himself a competent and efficient man for that position. The accounts and records in that office never were in as good shape as at present. Everything is arranged and recorded in a systematic and businesslike manner, and with dispatch.

David F. Forthey, Esq., was again retained as commissioners' attorney, a position which he has so ably filled for a number of years. His safe counsel has proven its value in many occasions during the past term.

Origen Attwood was retained also as janitor of the court house, which position he filled, during the past year, in an acceptable manner.

During the past week Deputy Sheriff Weaver was sworn before Recorder [Name] by the probate judge, under the Act of 1887, makes the change and requires the sheriff to file his appointment in the Recorder's office. Under this new act, the Deputy Sheriff, in case of absence or any inability of the Sheriff, is vested with full power to perform all duties pertaining to that office. Deputy Weaver is the first official in this county to come under the provisions of this act.

Special term of court will convene next week. There seems to be a disposition, of late, on the part of our President Judge, Hon. A. O. Furst, to clean up the docket and get some of the long standing causes from the list. The constant delays, the apparent disregard of the interests of litigants, the frequent disappointments of coming to court with scores of witnesses gathered from far and wide and being met with the customary "postponed until next session" from this "Temple of Justice" in disgust. The rights of the community, in contrast with the convenience of our court, seem to be two vastly different quantities, with the ratio largely in favor of the latter.

We are glad to see the present disposition of our court in its effort to dispatch business and bring a close to some long standing, and frequently delayed, causes. We feel like complimenting His Honor for this, but then we must keep in mind that the election of a new President Judge will take place this year and there may be more motive than regard for public duty in this apparent zeal, displayed at the "eleventh hour."

A Bit of Good News.

The publishers of the Columbian Album, the wonderful Christmas gift of THE PITTSBURG TIMES to its readers, have decided to extend the scope of the work so as to make it a volume of 224 views instead of 100 as originally intended. This will necessitate an increase in the number of parts from 10 to 14. The additional number will be furnished to readers of The Times at the same term as the first parts, namely six coupons and ten cents for each part. With the last part will be furnished a complete index and title page. Twenty five thousand copies of the Columbian Album are being sent out by The Times each week. With the enlargement of the scope of the work this number should be doubled.

—Haupt & Son pay cash for apples, by the quantity. If you have any to sell, address Haupt & Son, Belleville, and they will send a man to see them. They will furnish the barrels and pay the cash on delivery.

IMPORTANT CASE.

Some time ago the Pennsylvania Railroad Company filed a bill in equity in our courts, alleging that by reason of a contract between that company, the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad Company and the Lemont Railroad Company of the one part and the Nittany Valley Railroad Company and the Ore Land Association and the Centre Iron Company of the other part, the Valentine Iron Company and its officers had no right to aid in the building of the new railroad from Belleville to Mill Hill, and if built the Valentine Iron Company would have no right to ship the product of the furnace over the new road, and asked for an injunction to restrain these parties from aiding the construction of the new road, and from shipping over it when completed. When the application came to be heard the preliminary injunction was abandoned, but the defendants, the Nittany Valley Railroad Company and the Valentine Iron Company, were ruled to answer the plaintiffs' bill. Instead of answering, the defendants demurred to the bill. The issue thus formed was heard before Judge Furst on last Friday. The plaintiffs were represented by D. W. Sellers, Esq., of Philadelphia, and John Blanchard, Esq., and the defendants by C. M. Clements, Esq., of Snubury, and C. M. Bower, Esq. All these gentlemen took part in the argument. It was purely a legal battle and lasted from half-past nine in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon. The case is now in the hands of Judge Furst, who is struggling with the many intricate questions of law raised in the case. Our people are anxiously waiting for the decision of the court and are expecting a favorable determination. An adverse decision would destroy the usefulness of our new railroad, and would be a serious blow to Belleville.

First Trip to Florida via P. R. R.

This year's series of Pennsylvania Railroad tours to the land of sunshine and flowers will be inaugurated on January 30th, when a luxurious special train, composed entirely of Pullman [Name] Philadelphia 12.10, Wilmington 12.50 p. m., and thence via the most direct route to the destination point—Jacksonville. At this latter place the tourists are left to follow their own inclination as to where they shall spend the two weeks allotted to them. The great number of side trips that are available render a selection from which choice may be made to suite the desire of the most exacting. The unsurpassed climate accorded with the cloudless, azure-blue sky throughout the immense confines of the state, and the healthful effects to be enjoyed by a sojourn within its borders are sure to be appreciated by the strong as well as the feeble, in whatever direction they are prompted.

\$50 from New York, \$48 from Philadelphia, and proportionate rates from intermediate or contiguous points within a generous radius are made on the most liberal basis, and include railroad fare, sleeping accommodations, and meals en route in both directions while on the special train.

The remaining dates of the series are February 18th and 27th, and March 13th and 27th.

Sale Notes.

Every person having sale bills printed at this office will be presented with a book of blank notes.

HOW MANY CHILDREN

HAVE YOU?

How many times a month do you visit the shoe store? Of course your children are just like other people's—always wanting new shoes. You can't let them go to school with their toes sticking out. We have on hand a line of Boy's School Shoes on which you can

SAVE 50 PER CENT. IN SHOE LEATHER.

They are not the rough, cheap-looking kind—commonly called School Shoes. They are neat, strong and durable, and only cost

\$1.25 a Pair.

Mingle's SHOE STORE.