

# The Centre Democrat.

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NO. 6

## The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - ED. & PUB.

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Democratic County Committee for 1895

DISTRICT	COMMITTEEMAN
Bellefonte, north ward	W J Howley
" south ward	"
Centre Hall	D J Meyer
Howard boro	W R Gardner
Milesburg	Geo B Noll
Milhelm	Samuel Weiser
Unionville	W H Earon
South Phillipsburg	J C Johnson
Phillipsburg, 1st ward	J W Lukens
" 2nd ward	Paul Jones
Benner, north precinct	S M Graham
" south precinct	M Henderson
Boggs, north precinct	Michael Hazel
" east precinct	Geo W Brown
" west precinct	James M Lucas
Burnside	Wm Hippie
College, east precinct	J D Reese
" west precinct	John Corrigan
Curtin	N J McCloy
Ferguson, east precinct	W H Fry
" west precinct	Jacob Harpster
Gregg, north precinct	Samuel Wise
" east precinct	Geo C Condo
" west precinct	O McCormick
Haines, west precinct	W T Winkler
" east precinct	Thomas J Brumgart
Halfmoon	J P Sebring
Harris	Chas A From
Howard twp	W P Woodward
Huston	Henry Hale
Liberty	W I Haeter
Marion	J H Hoy
Miles, east precinct	W H Haeter
" middle precinct	J W Shaffer
" west precinct	U S Haeter
Patton	D H Thomas
Penn	J W Kerstetter
Potter, north precinct	James W Runkle
" south precinct	James B Spangler
Rush, north precinct	John B Long
" south precinct	Patrick Heffran
Snow Show, east precinct	Lawrence Redding
" west precinct	Austin Kerins
Spring north precinct	Thomas M Barnhart
" south precinct	W H Noll
Taylor	E Ardey
Union	Thomas Fink
Walker	Samuel Emerick
Worth	Solomon Peas
	A J Johnson
H. S. TAYLOR, Sec.	N. B. SPANGLER, Chairman.

### Editorial.

THE *Hornet* elaborates considerably against a poor house in its last issue. If it would give some data from which intelligent deductions could be made instead of ranting, it could be of some use.

In the house at Harrisburg a bill has been introduced providing for the punishment of persons who willfully furnish newspapers with libelous matter by a fine not exceeding \$500 and imprisonment for two years, or either.

If the bill appropriating \$400,000 for the erection of a hospital, in Central Pennsylvania, for the insane should pass, Centre county should make an effort to obtain the same. We have the central location and could get it.

THERE are some very interesting moves being made in borough politics of late. Schemes are being laid by noted schemers for individual benefit. The voter and taxpayer should carefully study the situation so that he may know what he is doing. The public can not be too careful in the management of local affairs.

WARD McALLISTER, the social dictator of New York city, died last week. If they need a man to fill his place Bellefonte can supply it. We have several social lights who would be confident enough, and as they are on hardpan just now would accept most anything.

Gov. HASTINGS kindly remembered his law partner, Wilbur F. Reeder, Esq., of Bellefonte, in dealing out the appointments. Last Thursday Mr. Reeder received congratulatory dispatches from Harrisburg announcing his appointment as Assistant Adjutant General of the National Guards of Pennsylvania to succeed Lieut. Col. Krumbhaar. It is a very nice position, with a high rank, but no salary. For some time past Mr. Reeder has filled the position of First Lieutenant of Co. B, of this place, and is an accomplished military man.

#### The Babies Got Mixed.

The Irwin Standard tells the following which we presume is correct: A most curious affair recently occurred at Fort Howard. A married woman of that place and her married daughter resided in the same house, and one day last week both gave birth to baby boys of about the same complexion, size and weight. A few neighbors were in soon after and in passing the babies around for inspection they became mixed, and now the mothers will never know whether they brought up their own child or not. The mothers don't care so much, but the fathers insist the dilemma is serious.

## PAUPERS AUCTIONED OFF.

### A BAD SYSTEM OF POOR LAWS.

Pennsylvania suffers from Irregular mode of government.—A bill Before the Legislature to correct the Evil.

As Centre county will vote on the question of a poor house at the coming Spring election, Tuesday, February 19, the following from the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of a recent issue, can be read with profit:

Pennsylvania, known throughout the country for generous bounty to the needy and distressed, is declared to have the most unequal system of poor law government of any of the states; open to many abuses, and aggravated by constant litigation that is often more expensive than the actual care of paupers. Almost every county—and in many instances the several boroughs and townships of a county—has a different method of administration. Unfortunates are put up for maintenance to the lowest bidder, who very often happen to be little better off than the pauper. To remedy these conditions and bring the state under a uniform system, Representative E. P. Gould, of Erie, ex-president of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill in the Legislature, which is now in the committee on Judiciary General.

The act provides that each county shall constitute a separate poor district, to be governed by three directors elected by the people, and they shall at once take steps for the establishment of a county poor house. Actual residence of one year is made essential to such a settlement as will entitle to relief, and a number of special and local acts are repealed.

In explanation of the provisions of his bill Colonel Gould said: "In nine counties of the state the entire county constitutes a single district and is governed so far as the poor are concerned, by the county commissioners, who act also as Directors of the Poor. As directors they levy the poor tax and make requisitions for its disbursement upon themselves as commissioners.

#### A DISGRACE TO THE STATE.

"Twenty counties are regulated upon the township district plan, governed by overseers. They make the assessment and disburse the tax collected. There is no appeal from their levy. It is a fact to the great disgrace of this Commonwealth that in some of these overseer districts the paupers are put up at auction and their maintenance let to the lowest bidder. Very often the successful bidder is little better off than the pauper, and the pittance designed for the support of one has to do service for two, and frequently more.

"It is almost impossible to remedy the existing evils. Nearly every district is governed wholly or in part by local or special laws. Hence the only cure for the unfortunate conditions is a general law. Such a law, if its provisions act as a repeal of the special laws of the districts, will, of course, meet opposition. Nearly every physician, lawyer and others who receive fees from the poor funds will strenuously urge defeat. Nearly all of them are politicians in a small way, and will employ every influence to protect their small jobs."

#### THE DISTRICT SYSTEM.

Corroborative of the ill conditions fostered by the lack of a uniform system are the statements of a number of poor directors themselves. Monroe county seems saddest off in this respect. Samuel Keister, of West Buffalo township, Union county, said: "I favor the county system. We board our paupers with the lowest bidder. They cost about \$1 a week. Yes, sometimes an overseer will take a man to his own home and make a little out of his boarding. They are generally taken, though, by the laboring class."

Overseer Campbell, of Gregg township, Snyder county, said: "We board our paupers with the lowest bidder. Yes I think they could be kept better in a county almshouse. Our costs of litigation over the question of settlement have been heavy. Having a county system I think would cure this. We make an agreement with the bidders that the paupers shall eat at the table with them."

Overseer Catherman, of Lewisburg, says: "We place our paupers in good families; but of course, where we can board them cheapest. A county almshouse would undoubtedly diminish the cost of maintenance and be better for the poor. We try to avoid litigation on the settlement question. One suit cost

us \$140 or more than a year's maintenance would.

Martin Yetter, an overseer of Smithfield, Monroe county, said: "We tried ten years ago to get a county poorhouse. We have to board our paupers out. While we do not auction their maintenance, we try to put them where the price is lowest. We regard the auction system as an outrage. I favor the abolition of the township for the county system, with a county poorhouse supported the same as our jail and court house."

#### "MONROE COUNTY SINS."

George Becker, of East Stroudsburg township, an overseer with six year's experience, said: "In my opinion we should have a county house. I think it would reduce pauperism and prevent litigation about settlements."

Emory Price, of Price township, said: "Our rule is to put our poor with the lowest bidder. A county poorhouse would greatly simplify matters and save money."

Charles Smink, of Stroud township said: "Monroe county sins in not having a home for its poor. It would save the payment of costs to thirty-two overseers, thirty-two justices of the peace, and a lot of constables. Every one of them gets a slice of the poor tax."

Lackawanna county also has the township system. Judge Archbold, of Scranton, said: "The question of settlement is a very vexatious and expensive luxury. A uniform county system would cure this and besides being more efficacious in real relief, would not be so costly. Frequently hundreds of dollars have been expended in ascertaining the proper settlement of a pauper when the expense of maintaining him in a poorhouse would not have cost more than \$10."

William H. Carter, of Mahony City says: "The care of the poor should be done by the county instead of the boroughs and townships. Schuylkill county poor matters have not been economically managed by any means, but much cheaper than by the township plan."

Colonel Gould has compiled information relative to the workings of the poor laws throughout the state, and finds that in 290 districts the auction system prevails, and that 128 districts favor the county system—of these thirty-seven because it would be more economical, twenty because it would decrease pauperism, ten because it would lessen litigation, seven because it would be more humane, and nineteen because it would equalize taxation.

#### At Council Meeting.

On Monday evening the following business was transacted: J. A. Aikens was awarded \$33.90 for damages to his pavement by the Undine engine at the time of the Conrad building fire.

Street committee reported work completed on Curtin street, crossings cleaned off and that a number of men were employed breaking stone for the boro who were in need. Motion carried to pay them 50 cents per cubic yard.

Finance committee reported the amount due the boro treasurer \$10,675.49. The height of the Lamb street bridge was referred to the street committee.

#### Silver and Gold.

Something everybody wants, something all can get by securing a copy of Vick's Floral Guide for 1895; a work of art, printed in 17 different tinted inks, with beautiful colored plates. Full list with description and prices, of everything one could wish for vegetable, fruit or flower garden. Many pages of new novelties, encased in a chaste cover of silver and gold.

Unusual and astonishing offers, such as Sweet Peas for 40 cents a pound, \$300.00 for a name for a new double Sweet Pea, etc. If at all interested in seeds or plants send 10 cents at once for a copy of Vick's Floral Guide, which amount may be deducted from first order, to James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y., and learn the many bargains this firm is offering.

#### Closing Out.

In another column will be found an important announcement from H. H. Schreyer the carpet and wallpaper dealer. He is closing out his entire stock, and it is a large one, at cost. It is his intention to dispose of everything in stock. This is an opportunity to buy at an advantage.

## GROUND HOG DAY.

Last Saturday was Ground Hog Day and the weather prophets were on the alert. During the forenoon the day was cloudy but after dinner the sun shone clear and bright. If the tradition is right when he saw his shadow he went back to his nest to remain for six long weeks.

Belief in the ground hog runs back of all the recorded history of this country, and is cherished by a great number of our countrymen. It comes from the Indians, from whom the ground hog has one of his names, wood-chuck. They observed his habits and made note of the weather when he ended his period of hibernation. If it was bright and he could see his shadow, the sign was that there would be weeks of gloom and storm before it was settled. As the Indian did not have much to do beside make notes of this sort, and as they were careful in their observations, the presumption was that they were right. The early settlers took the belief from them, as they took everything else they could get their hands on. The celebration is not had everywhere the same day, because the close of the period of hibernation is determined by latitudes. It occurs earlier in some than in others, but in this latitude it occurs February 2.

#### Can it be True.

A prominent business man of this town related in our sanctum this week, how he had employed a certain Bellefonte attorney to protect his firm's interests while in a temporary embarrassment, but when the crisis came betrayed his trust by counseling the other party to proceed to collect—there was a large commission in sight from the other party. If the story is correct such a man is a disgrace to the legal profession and his conduct should be ventilated. Legal shysters, whether of high or low standing, should be openly reprovved in court and disbarred. The aggrieved client talks of instituting proceedings for this breach of faith.

#### ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—The farmers institute at Howard is largely attended this week.

—See what Lyon & Co. have to say in another column. A great clearance sale.

—A large lot of shoes are on the bargain counter at Powers' shoe store. See advertisement on another page.

—At Garman, attended every session of council during the past year. He takes an interest in public matters.

—Your attention is called to the advertisement of Lyon & Co. They are putting out goods at still lower prices.

—Percy McDowell, a seven year old son of Wm. McDowell, of Marion twp., had his thumb cut off recently by getting it in a feed cutter.

—Who has gone up to 55 cents and a great deal has been marketed during the last two weeks.

—On Tuesday morning the Lewisburg train struck in a snow drift and was detained for several hours.

—Col. Amos Mullen, one of the mail carriers, has been granted a month's vacation. Ed. Woods is filling his place.

—New songs, new dances, new jokes, by "The Dazzler" next Tuesday evening at the opera house. It is a musical farce comedy.

—On Tuesday the weather was so cold that some of our public schools had to close. Court adjourned in the afternoon for the same reason.

—William Flack has opened up a barber shop on Bishop street. Mr. Flack is a first class barber and will soon build up an extensive trade in that end of town.

—The University Extension course is something that should be encouraged in Bellefonte. The first series of lectures concluded last Thursday evening and there was a larger attendance than formerly.

—About sixty State College students of the preparatory department came to Bellefonte on Saturday evening and partook of a banquet at the Brockerhoff House. They kept their promise by starting for home at 9 p. m.

—The annual statement of the county's receipts and expenditures appears in this issue, in supplement form. There are few counties that furnish as complete and full a statement as is done by our county commissioners.

—The railroad from State College to Pine Grove Mills is to be completed as soon as the weather begins to moderate. A number of extensive lumber operations are awaiting the completion of the road.

## THE FLOW OF GOLD.

### WHY IT IS BEING SENT TO EUROPE.

American Securities not Wanted—Foreign Capital Going Elsewhere. A Plain Statement of Our Financial Difficulties.

The drain of gold from Europe plainly comes from falling confidence in American securities, causing them to be returned for sale in this country. This is demonstrated by a few figures. For the last two calendar years we have exported \$310,000,000 more of merchandise than we have imported. In 1894 the trade balance in our favor was \$181,700,000, and our net gold exports \$81,200,000, in all \$262,900,000 for which we have received no offset in imports. Commenting on these figures, the New York "Commercial Bulletin" says:

This \$262,900,000 represents the amount we have contributed within the last twelve months to the liquidation of foreign obligations of one kind or another. It is estimated that in normal times we pay to Europe about \$100,000,000 per annum on account of the interest and dividends accruing upon our securities and other investments held there. Everything above that sum in the \$262,900,000 above deduced is therefore to be attributed to the return of our securities or the withdrawal of various less permanent forms of loan; so that we may conclude that in 1894 some \$161,000,000 was devoted to these abnormal liquidations. In 1891 and 1892, following the adoption of the Sherman law, we were exposed to large liquidations of foreign credits and returning of securities, but statistics show, upon the basis of computation here adopted, that the foreign liquidations of those two years averaged \$100,000,000 per annum less than those of last year. This is a serious showing, not only because of the extraordinary nature of the payments of foreign debts we have had to make last year, but because this process of liquidation has been in operation ever since the enactment of the Sherman law, and instead of abating, has now reached a far more serious stage than at any previous time; in other words, it proves that the movement is fast gaining in momentum.

That the movement is fast gaining in momentum is evidenced by the fact that our gold exports last week amounted to \$7,222,000, the largest of any week on record. What is the cause? The best explanation we have seen comes from the well known New York merchant and financier, Nathan Straus, who on returning from Europe last week said: European capitalists have grown distrustful of all American securities. They are taking their money out of American railroads and the like. That's why gold is going back by the millions of dollars. The wrecking of railroad properties in America has destroyed the confidence of people abroad. They regard the system of defaulting, foreclosing and freezing out stockholders as legalized theft. They feel that they have no protection for their money here. I met many bankers and people of that class in Frankfurt and other cities who had all withdrawn their investments here, or who intended to do so. American securities is a term that means no security, wildcat finance and that sort of thing. This does not apply to railroads alone, though railroads have done most to disgust and alarm European capitalists. There is scarcely a market for American securities of any sort, except of the character of government bonds. It will take years to restore the old feeling of confidence. British and German moneyed men prefer smaller returns where they are certain to larger profits with so much more risk. Wherever I came in contact with business sentiment on the other side I found the same suspicion and distrust.

There is no reason to question this statement. The facts are too well known in this country. It is not the ascendancy of this or that party—it is not the homemade bugbear we are wearing the silver standard—it is not the tariff laws that causes the loss of confidence, the return of American securities and the drain of gold. It is simply the rascality of the railroad wreckers, the greatest of whom has lately gone to his reward, leaving an accumulation for his heirs of \$80,000,000, mainly stolen.

If, as the New York Commercial Bulletin asserts, we send to Europe annually \$100,000,000 on account of interest and dividends accruing on our securities, that must represent an investment of no less than \$2,000,000,000 in American stocks, bonds and other forms of investment.—Post.

## Carelessness Costs Three Lives.

LOSANTVILLE, Ind., Feb. 6.—While several men were husking corn at Jacob Clapper's residence, five miles southwest of this place, using a husker run by an old thrashing machine engine, the boiler exploded and Nathan Taylor, Harvey Taylor and John Welker were killed. Jacob Clapper and Wilson Drake are dying. Harvey Williams was the only one of the six who escaped and he is badly bruised. The men were careless and neglected the machinery, cold water being injected into a dry and hot boiler.

## Fifty Miners Killed in France.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—An explosion of fire-damp is reported from Montcau Les Mines, Department of Saone et Loire. Fire broke out in the St. Eugene Pit, and while the miners were fighting this fire an explosion occurred which wrecked the galleries and entombed the miners. The rescue party thus far has recovered twenty-one bodies and has removed from the ruins eight terribly injured miners. It is believed that fifty persons perished in the disaster.

## Carlisle's Estimate Conservative.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Treasury officials generally express the opinion that Secretary Carlisle's estimate of a surplus of \$2,500,000 for the calendar year 1895 is conservative. It is argued that the customs duty on sugar alone should bring in at least \$35,000,000 during the next eleven months, and that the revenue from the income tax is likely to reach \$40,000,000.

## Edwin Booth's Estate.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—A motion to pass on the accounts of the estate of the late Edwin Booth came up before Surrogate Fitzgerald and the order will be signed. The estate now amounts to \$672,625, after legacies to the amount of \$110,000 have been paid out.

#### One Cent

is a very small sum of money, but it you purchase and have delivered to you the Pittsburgh Daily or Semi-Weekly Post, containing all the news of the world, illustrations of high character, short stories and columns of choice literature, fashions and much of interest to woman-kind. The Post is acknowledged to be the best market and financial paper published in Pittsburgh. Terms—The Daily Post, 8 large pages every day, only \$3 a year, or 75 cents for three months. The Semi-Weekly Post, 8 large pages, Tuesdays and Fridays, \$1 a year, or 30 cents for three months. The Sunday Post, 20 large pages every Sunday, only \$2 per year. Send for specimen copies. Address, The Post, Pittsburg, Pa.

#### Invented by a Woman.

A washer invented by a woman who understands the business, ought to be the very thing women who wash will be pleased with, and such is THE GOODWIN which H. L. Harvey, Esq., a gentleman well known to our people, is now introducing. Mr. Harvey has the exclusive agency for Centre county, and all who desire to relieve themselves of hard work as washers should not delay to procure one of these admirable labor saving machines, which they can do by addressing a postal card to Mr. Harvey at Bellefonte, when he will call and exhibit and explain it.

#### AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In the matter of the estate of John Robinson, late of Ferguson twp. deceased.—The undersigned auditor appointed by the Orphans court of Centre county, to report a schedule of the distribution of the funds in the hands of Rebecca Robinson and H. C. Robinson respectively executors, etc. and accountants, to and among those legally entitled thereto, will attend to the duties of his appointment, at his office in Bellefonte, Pa., Friday February 22nd, 1895, at 10 o'clock a. m., where all parties interested, or having a claim upon said funds shall appear and present said claims or be forever debarred from sharing in said distribution. HARRY KILLER, Auditor.

## GREATEST SALE OF FINE FOOTWEAR

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This is a chance of a lifetime to buy

## Good Shoes Poor Shoe Prices!

—AT—

These goods are of STANDARD MAKES and in the height of Fashion; Prices cut to one-half half their value at

## Mingle's Store.