

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1896.

VOL. 18. NO. 13.

UNSEATED LANDS OF CENTRE CO.

How and Why they are bought
and Sold.

NOT A SOURCE OF REVENUE.

A Complete Statement of What the Commissioners Have to do With These Sales—They are not at Fault—Bogus Titles being Cleared out—A Refutation.

The Philadelphia and Pittsburg newspapers, for some days past, have contained many communications in reference to the proposed sale of unseated lands, by the Centre county commissioners, on the 24th inst.

It is clear to our minds that these dis-patches are manufactured in the interest of some person, or persons, who desire to obtain these lands for nothing.

Let it be understood in Philadelphia, Pittsburg and everywhere else, that neither the Commissioners nor the Treasurer of Centre county, deal in unseated lands as a source of revenue for the county.

Under the laws of the Commonwealth, the treasurer of the county must make a sale of all unseated lands, on which the taxes have not been paid every two years. There is no choice with him, he must make the sale. At the sale made by the treasurer, all tracts of land offered by him and for which no person bids taxes and cost, are knocked down to the county for taxes and costs. This is also required by the law. By this means the county becomes the owner of some of these lands.

Under the laws, relating to unseated lands, the commissioners must hold all lands knocked down to the county for a period of five years, subject to the right of redemption by the owners. After the expiration of five years, the commissioners are authorized to make sale of the lands held by the county. It thus happens that the commissioners have a sale about once in from two to five years.

Every tract of land sold by the county treasurer, as well as that sold by the commissioner, has at one time or another been surveyed, and a draft of the same returned to what was, at one time, the land office at Harrisburg, now the Department of Internal Affairs.

Neither the county commissioners nor county treasurer have any knowledge of duplicate tracts or that surveys have been overlapped, or laid one upon the top of the other. Before the timber was taken from our mountains, these unseated lands were valuable and the owners paid the taxes, but since the timber has been removed the owners of the lands refuse to pay the taxes, and let the lands go to sale and very often buy them in or taxes and cost, or a trifle more, which is much cheaper than paying the taxes. When the owners do not buy them in at the treasurer's sale, they frequently go to the county, and after a lapse of five years when offered for sale by the commissioners, the owners, or their agents, buy them again for whatever price they can obtain them.

By this means, they keep the title to these tracts in themselves, without paying any taxes, or anything, except about once in seven years. The county makes nothing on these sales. When the treasurer makes a sale, on all tracts knocked down to the county, out of county funds, the commissioners must pay the cost of advertising and the making of a deed. Instead of these sales being a source of revenue they are an actual out lay, and are only made because the law requires it. The story in the Pittsburg Times about the Samuel Fox tract is silly. Anybody with sense will understand that the man (if there was one) with the portable saw mill was stealing timber, and he simply used the name Samuel Fox tract at every point he set his mill to hide his theft. The chances are that he owned no Samuel Fox tract, and that there was no such tract in the neighborhood.

The lands belonging to the city of Philadelphia in this county, and situate in Burnside township, were long in dispute between the city and Smith, Rhoads & Smith, and the title was settled and if Philadelphia did not obtain the value of the same, the city has entrusted the management of its affairs.

Our opinion that there is more unseated land in the mountains than there is cleared land county-wide. The mountainous and unseated lands are simply immense. Unseated land is held to be of no value because it is believed to be un-derlaid with coal. Timber has been re-productive and the owner has to go to sale moved, the owners pay the taxes and buy, or have it bought, pay the taxes it is cheaper to do so than to clear it every year, but the county tax is more. The school, road and poor tax which is levied on the townships, is frequently the heaviest. We make this statement with

interest of truth. The officers of Centre county, are well known to be men of the highest honor and integrity, and to charge them with putting up lands, which do not exist, for sale, is an outrage upon men whose every official act is measured by the highest sense of honor and justice.

To judge from the concluding paragraph of the dispatch in the Times of the 19th inst., these articles are written by some one, who wants a job at the expense of the taxpayers of the county, and we are sure they will not obtain it at the hands of the present board of commissioners.

Not so Bad.

During the license court, while the application for the hotel at Rebersburg was under consideration, one of the witnesses upon the stand, it is alleged by the people down there, overdraw the facts and did the locality injustice in speaking of jugs and bottles kept in private in that vicinity, and that they are not quite as bad as represented from the witness stand. They claim for that section as good and sober a community as elsewhere to be found in the central part of the state, with intelligence to match. A synopsis of this evidence went into the printed reports, and the "other side" claims it as only just that both sides have a fair hearing, in order that the good name of Rebersburg and vicinity may not suffer from anything too strongly colored by any witness. We are willing that those aggrieved shall have the benefit of this explanation—Rebersburg always having maintained a creditable record. The matter should be spared further controversy.

Compulsory Education.

Dr. Nathan C. Shaeffer, superintendent of public instruction, is making a careful study of the question of compulsory education with a view of devising the best means for the enforcement of the law enacted by the last legislature. He says that the day for arguing whether we should have a compulsory act or not is gone. "It is simply a question whether the act passed by the last legislature shall be enforced. I have no apology to make for endeavoring to carry out the law which is my sworn duty to enforce. If the law is a bad one, the best way to secure its repeal is to enforce it. If the law is a good one, of course, it should be enforced. If it cannot be enforced let us find out the reason why. If any of its provisions are inadequate or unwise let it be amended. Perhaps the mere attempt to enforce it will bring to light the causes which now keep children out of school."

A Great Corporation.

The Pennsylvania railroad is the most valuable in the world. The system embraces 8,000 miles of road bed, has a capital of \$679,000,000 an annual income of \$95,000,000, and carries the names of 75-000 employees on its pay rolls.

On the 13th of April the Pennsylvania Railroad company will complete the first half century of its active existence. During this period it has made itself the greatest railroad corporation in the world. It has been foremost in all improvements in railroading. It has literally set the pace for the railroad world. It has never been behind but always first. Arrangements are in progress, we understand, to celebrate this semi-centennial in a fitting manner.

Go Slow Young Man.

The young man who has been monopolizing the time and attention of his acknowledged sweetheart for several months and yet cannot make up his mind what to do, will perhaps have his indecision accelerated to a proposing point by the announcement that a Maryland judge has decided that after a young man has called on a young lady twenty-five times the presumption that he means business has been established. Hey, there; some of you young chaps, about Bellefonte, had better go slow. This thing of court-ing becomes a serious matter, in time.

Costly Delay.

Dr. Salm, the specialist who has been visiting this section regularly for several years, has instituted a suit for damages against the Pennsylvania railroad company. On two recent trips the Dr's. baggage containing his medical outfit failed to reach here on time and he consequently could not treat his regular patients.

He estimated his damages at \$225. The hearing was before Justice Keichline who bound the case over for trial at court.

The Dear Old Keystone.

When you talk about there being a better state than Pennsylvania every potato winks its eye, every cabbage shakes its head, every beet gets red in the face, every onion gets stronger, every oat field is shocked, the rye strokes its beard, the corn pricks up its ears and every foot of ground kicks.

METHODIST APPOINTMENTS.

Where the Ministers Will be Stationed.

IN THE ALTOONA DISTRICT

The Conference in Session at Williamsport Last Week—Other News Paragraphed Containing late paragraphs.

The following appointments were announced on Tuesday, at the M. E. Conference in session at Williamsport, for this district:

ALTOONA DISTRICT.
David S. Monroe, Presiding Elder, Altoona.
Allegheny—George W. McInay, (supply) Altoona;
Asbury—W. H. Clossen, (supply) Chestnut Avenue—G. Tarring Gray.
Eighth Avenue—J. Ellis Bell.
Epworth Mission—W. H. Reed, (supply) Fifth Avenue—William McK. Reilly.
First Church—Martin L. Ganoe.
North—Crawford L. Benscoter.
Simpson Church—George M. Hoke.
Ansonville—Job Truax, (supply).
Bellefonte—John W. Rue.
Bellwood—Samuel D. Wilson.
Birmingham—David F. Kapp.
Centre—To be supplied.
Clearfield—William A. Stephens.
Coalport and Irwina—Richard H. Wharton.
Curwensville—J. A. Wood, jr.
Duncansville—John H. Price.
Glen Hope—Emanuel W. Wonner.
Half Moon—George A. Singer.
Hastings—John Vrooman.
Holidaysburg—Charles V. Hartzell.
Houtdale—Benjamin B. Hamlin.
Howard—John W. Forrest.
Karthaus—Lemuel L. Logan, (supply).
Lumber City—Wilbert W. Cadle, (supply).
Mahaffey—Hugh Strain.
Martinsburg and Woodbury—Joshua K. Lloyd.
McKee's Gap—George F. Boggs.
Milesburg and Unionville—George E. King.
Morrisdale—Samuel Blair.
New Washington—William J. Shaeffer.
Oseola—William R. Picken.
Patton—Charles W. Wasson.
Penn's Valley—Theodore S. Fans.
Phillipsburg—Alexander R. Miller.
Pleasant Gap—Bruce Hughes.
Port Matilda—Henry N. Minnigh.
Ramey—Charles A. Biddle.
Roaring Spring—Edwin H. Witman.
Shawmut—David E. Phillips, (supply).
Snow Shoe—Charles W. Rishell.
State College—Asbury W. Guyer.
Tyrone—
First Church—Horace L. Jacobs.
Columbia Avenue—Vaughn T. Rae.
Utahville—To be supplied.
Wallacetown—John W. Glover.
Warriorsmark—Ralph W. Illingsworth.
West Clearfield—Lyons M. Brady.
Williamsburg—Frank W. Leidy.
Woodland and Bradford—James S. Beyer.
Supernumeraries—George B. Ague, Lewis A. Rudiessil, George Trach.
Supernumeraries—John W. Olewine.

What There is in a Ton of Coal.

From one ton of ordinary gas coal may be produced 1,500 pounds coke, 20 gallons of ammonia water and 40 pounds of coal tar. By destructive distillation the coal tar will yield 69.6 pounds of pitch, 17 pounds of creosote, 14 pounds heavy oils, 9.5 pounds of naphtha yellow, 6.3 pounds naphthaline, 4.75 pounds naphthol, 2.25 pounds alizarin, 2.4 pounds solvent naphtha, 1.5 pounds phenol, 1.2 pounds aniline, 1.1 pounds benzene, 1.1 pounds aniline, 0.77 of a pound toluidine, 0.46 of a pound anthracene, and 0.9 of a pound balsene. From the latter is obtained the new substance known as saccharine, which is 230 times as sweet as the best cane sugar, one part of it giving a very sweet taste to a thousand parts of water.

Blacksnake Attempts to Catch a Rat.

Three boys of Edward Evans of Cambria township, aged 13, 9 and 7 years, were playing in their father's barn last Saturday. They were startled by hearing an unusual noise in a pile of corn fodder, when a second later a big rat scampered out of the fodder, followed closely and rapidly by a huge blacksnake, which evidently intended to make his dinner of the rat, but the latter was too swift and escaped. The boys, through fright and excitement, allowed the snake to escape into a pile of straw. The boys declare that the snake is fully seven feet long.—Ebensburg Herald.

We'll Take All We Can Get.

People who are superstitious as to the number 13 and who believe that those figures are unlucky, must have a care when they handle the 25 cent pieces, for on the American quarter dollar there are 13 stars, 13 letters in the scroll held in the eagle's beak, 13 marginal feathers in each wing, 13 tail feathers, 13 arrow heads and 13 letters in the word "quarter dollar."

SHOULD HIDE THEMSELVES.

During the past week many of the city daily papers contained dispatches from Bellefonte, to the effect that there was discord among Centre county democrats over the election of delegates to the coming state convention, at Allentown. The dispatches stated that Hon. James Kerr, of Clearfield, was at the head of a movement to select Whitney delegates, in opposition to Pattison.

Many democrats, about Centre county and elsewhere, may be misled by these news-mongers. Here in Bellefonte, which is the natural news and political centre, these dispatches created much surprise, because no one was aware of such a state of affairs.

At the last county convention no delegates were elected to the next state convention, to be held at Allentown, Pa., Wednesday, April 29th, 1896.

The county chairman, N. B. Spangler, Esq., recently called a meeting of democrats at his office, to get an expression as to what course to pursue under existing circumstances. To select delegates, by election, would make it necessary to hold democratic primary elections in the fifty-two districts of Centre county and the sending of almost one hundred democrats to Bellefonte, in convention, to select four men to go to the state convention, at Allentown. This, on the face of it, is useless. It was carefully considered by all present, and was deemed absolutely unnecessary. It was the almost unanimous opinion that the County Committee should be called together at an early date, and they should select the delegates in question. Coming, as they do, from every section of the county, they would voice the sentiments of the party, in case there should be any preference, in the choice for president. That is what has been done by chairman N. B. Spangler, and he has acted in this line, only after having consulted with all local party leaders upon this matter. There is no "scheme" about it. No "rump convention," as was stated; no interference by the Hon. James Kerr, in Centre county politics, for we credit him with better sense, as we can attend to our own affairs and would not allow it.

These dispatches were sent out from Bellefonte by our zealous "space writers," who jump at every little intimation and make out of it a great sensation, in order to have their matter accepted. The democrats here are not at loggerheads, as these dispatches would indicate. No one is disturbed at all. It is all newspaper bosh.

As to choice for President let us say a word. Whitney has positively declared that he will not permit his name to be used as a candidate, and is not regarded as in the field. We believe that if Gov. Pattison desires the endorsement from this state, Centre county would be united in support of his candidacy. But if his name only is to be used to further the interests of certain political heeleders in this state, who have been a deadload to the party, just that soon would they drop the Pattison boom.

The democrats of Centre county are for Pattison first, if he wants it. He need only make known his wishes. We believe Gov. Pattison's record would bring confidence to the party and the public. He would make a strong candidate.

Next on the list, we believe Hon. John G. Carlisle, Secretary of the Treasury, would be our choice. He is a statesman, in the full sense of the word. He has been schooled in public life and that has made him acquainted with all the various departments of the government. He is for honest money, an honest tariff and honesty in all that pertains to public good.

In conclusion—Centre county democracy is all right. Harmony prevails. They will be for Pattison first, if he wants it, and for the ticket nominated, notwithstanding what the "space writers" from Bellefonte may say to the contrary.

A Canine Freak.

One of the most wonderful freaks of nature heard of in a long time has been brought to notice here the last few days, in the guise of a two-legged dog, owned by Ed. Lindsey. The animal is now about 4 months old, of perfect form in every other way and as lively, healthy and frisky as any other dog. Where its two front legs should be there is nothing but two tufts of hair visible. In appearance the animal resembles somewhat the kangaroo, and in its manner of locomotion it also goes along like that animal, although at times it does attempt to walk like other dogs, and thus succeeds in showing the body along at a quite rapid rate. It is a cross between a whippet and a rat terrier; its parents are both well developed and perfectly formed animals, and no one can assign the reason for the freak of nature in the pup, which is now almost full grown and weighs about fifteen pounds.

Some of our base ball enthusiasts are agitating the idea of Bellefonte being represented in the river league this coming season.

A PROMINENT CITIZEN.

Death of the Venerable Mr. Hamilton.

AFTER A LINGERING ILLNESS

For Many Years He Was Employed by the Law Firm of Weaver, Gephart & Dale—A Noted Historian and Student—Interment at Harrisburg.

William Hamilton was born at Harrisburg in 1824. His father's name was Hugh Hamilton, who was at one time state printer. He died a good many years ago, when William was quite young. His mother's maiden name was Miss Rosanna Boyd, who died some time ago at the ripe old age of 88. William studied law and was admitted to the bar at Harrisburg, where he stayed until the war broke out. He enlisted on September 3rd, 1862, in Co. D, 2nd Penn'a Reserves. William McCandless was Colonel of this regiment. It was formerly commanded by Col. Wm. B. Mason, of Philadelphia, and subsequently by Col. William McCandless, who was a distinguished soldier and who afterwards became Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania. William Hamilton served all through the war and at the time of the discharge of the Penn'a Reserves, on the 31st of May, 1864, he was transferred to the 191st Regiment Penn'a Volunteers, in which he served until the close of the war. He was in almost continuous service in the Army of the Potomac.

His intelligence and clerical ability was such that soon after he enlisted he was transferred to Regimental Headquarters and was made a clerk in the Adjutant's office.

After his discharge from the army he came to Bellefonte and entered the law office of McCallister & Beaver as a clerk and continued to occupy this position with that firm and its successors until after Gen. J. A. Beaver went to Harrisburg as Governor of Pennsylvania in 1887. His growing infirmities seriously interfered with his using his pen and he could do but little in the office after that time. He lived in the family of H. N. McCallister, whose second wife was William Hamilton's sister. After the death of Mr. McCallister, he, with Gen. Beaver's family, moved to Harrisburg.

He had for several years been helpless and required the constant services of an attendant at his rooms in Crider's Block in Bellefonte. A gradual paralysis extending through several years slowly advanced, rendering him more and more helpless and which a few days ago extended to his throat preventing his taking any nourishment. He had been in a comatose condition since Friday last and quietly passed away at half-past six o'clock Monday morning.

Hon. A. Boyd Hamilton is the only brother left. He lives at Harrisburg and is in his 88th year. John, the other brother, died a few months ago in Texas, in which state he had been making his home.

The remains will be taken to Harrisburg at 10.09 Thursday morning and interment will be made at that city.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—We had another snow storm on Monday.

—Poverty Sociable in Cryder's Exchange this evening. Every body is invited.

—Read Lewis new advertisement in this issue, on page 7.

—Read the date on your address. It shows the expiration of your subscription.

—Messrs Orvis, Bower & Orvis are now comfortably fixed in their new rooms, in Pruner's block.

—The robbers were singing last week. It was a bit early for some of them as the cold snap killed many.

—Don't forget the Poverty Sociable this evening, in Crider's Exchange, by the men of the Reformed church of Bellefonte.

—Hon. Robert Frazier and Theodore M. Etting, president and vice-president of the Central Railroad, were in town on Wednesday.

—Princess Bonnie drew a very large house on Wednesday evening. It was one of the best attractions ever in Bellefonte.

—A complete statement of the condition of Centre county's unseated lands appears in another column. It is a complete refutation of the articles that appeared last week in the city papers.

—Prof. W. D. Maynard, principal of the schools of Millheim, will conduct a school in that Borough for ten weeks, commencing April 13th. The common English branches, as well as advanced subjects, will be taught. Especial attention will be paid to teachers.

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS—The great and supreme Ruler of the universe has, in His infinite wisdom, removed from among us, one of our worthy and esteemed brothers, Howard B. Orndorff; and WHEREAS, the long and intimate relations held with him in the faithful discharge of his duties in this order makes it eminently befitting that we record our appreciation of him; therefore,

Resolved, that the wisdom and ability which he has exercised in the aid of our order by service, contribution, and counsel, will be held in grateful remembrance;

Resolved, that the sudden removal from among our midst leaves a vacancy and a shadow that will be deeply realized by all the members and friends of this order, and will prove a serious loss to the community and the public.

Resolved, that with deep sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the deceased, we express our hope that even so great a loss to us, all may be overruled for good by Him who doeth all things well.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of this order, a copy printed in the local paper, and a copy forwarded to the bereaved family.

C. D. Mozak,
W. T. Ellinger,
J. C. F. Mozak,
Jno. Worth,
Samuel William,
Committee.

Woodward, Pa., March 26, 96.
Howard B. Orndorff was born the 28th day of February, 1876, died the 16th day of March '96, aged 20 years, 17 days. He was a worthy brother of Washington Camp, F. O. S. of A. No 357, located in Woodward, Centre county, Pa. The funeral took place Wednesday forenoon 18th, at 9-30 o'clock, at the house of Rev. Shortess and Rev. Brown officiating. The text was recorded in the 13 chapter and 21st verse of John.

In Memoriam.

Resolutions of respect by Victor Grange No. 159, P. of H., on the death of Mrs. Lucy A. Feiky:

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His alwise providence, has removed from our order, our worthy sister, a kind and devoted wife, an affectionate christian mother, we comfort our hearts by the assurance that she has entered into that rest prepared for the dead, who die in the Lord.

Resolved: The patrons of Victor Grange, and the people of the community in which she lived have sustained a loss which cannot be replaced.

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be published in the county papers, a copy be sent to the bereaved family, and that our charter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

Sarah Eilers,
Laura Bella Lyle,
J. B. Mayer.

"A precious one from us has gone:
A voice we loved to hear is silent;
A chair is vacant in our Hall,
Which time can never fill."

See what the free trade Wilson tariff is doing: The Carnegie company has taken a contract of 10,000 tons of steel rails for Japan. Youngstown mills have taken contracts for British India for quantities of steel products. And to cap the climax of the desolation produced by the Wilson tariff, we have this dispatch from London yesterday:

LONDON, March 23.—Much interest is manifested in commercial circles over the announcement that a leading iron firm has made extensive purchases in Alabama of pig iron, and is arranging for further purchases.

Commenting upon this the "Iron and Coal Trade Review" says: "England is threatened with an invasion of American pig iron. This is one of the most serious blows to the supremacy of Great Britain as a manufacturing nation."

And all under the Wilson free trade tariff. Stand firm under, men and brethren.

Will Move.

There will be considerable moving on Linn street, Bellefonte, this spring. The family of the late Jacob V. Thomas will move into the house of John C. Miller; J. Wesley Gephart, will move into the house of J. Kyle McFarland, on East Linn street. Morris W. Cowdrick, with his family will move to Niagara Falls, and his house will be occupied by a Mr. Williams, of Beech Creek. Robert F. Hunter, will move into the house on West Howard street, now occupied by James Alexander, who will build a residence on East Linn St.

Pretty, But Bad.

Tuesday Constable Jerry Funk of Phillipsburg, brought Bertha Harris, a 16-year-old Phillipsburg girl, who was arrested at the instigation of her father, William Harris, to the county jail, where she will stay until the courts determine what shall be done with her. She is a good looking young girl. Her escapades dates back about nine months.

INCORPORATION NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made, on Friday the 17th day of April, 1896, by W. E. Jenkins, J. H. Lingie, John F. Harris, Ellis L. Orvis and J. Montg. mery, under the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29, 1874, and the supplements thereto, for the charter of an intended corporation, to be called the "BELLEVILLE POWER AND HAMMER COMPANY," the character and object of which is the manufacture and sale of tools, machinery and other articles in wood and metal, and for these purposes, to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of the said Act of Assembly and its supplements.

ORVIS, BOWER & ORVIS,
Solicitors.