

CENTRE COUNTY OFFICE SEEKERS

What is going on in Different Sections.

MANY INTERESTING CONTEST.

Each man has a claim—Petitions being circulated—Who the Candidates for Postmasters are—More next week.

ABOUT THE COUNTY.

During the past week inquiries were sent out from this office to the various points about the county, for a list of republican candidates at each place. The following is the result of the canvass, as sent in, by correspondents in position to know:

Fun at Port Matilda.

S. R. Pringle thinks he should have it this time, because he had it under Harrison's administration and he served the people so well and they want him again—but just ask the majority of the people about that, and see what they say. We think they will say *ni!*

G. F. Jones thinks he should have the office because he is an old soldier, and is getting \$18 a month from the government. He thinks they ought to give him his entire living—putting it in a mill way.

H. H. Osman imagines he has a sure thing. He has been a great Hastings man, and he thinks that Hastings will assist him in getting the office. You know, Dan, sent him a pass when he was inaugurated Governor of this state. But when Mr. Osman boarded the train at Port Matilda, bound for Harrisburg, he presented his pass to the conductor, and to his surprise it was bogus; and after Mr. Osman parleyed with the conductor awhile paid his fare to Tyrone and remained with his daughter all night and then came back to Port Matilda. Now this is what Mr. Osman is building on, also his popularity in the Miller contest. He is one of the chief advisers in the contest from this point. Mr. Osman thinks he has the "Bull by the Tail."

Wm. Bennette has been circulating his petition among the people for sometime. Mr. Bennette does not claim anything in his behalf, only that he has been a worker in the party for several years, ever since he has been a voter, and he is asking this through pure merit, not through any fame, as some of the other applicants.

S. S. Miles is an applicant for the office, not that he thinks that he has done more for the party than any other good republican, but he thinks he has just as good a right, as the other applicants. Mr. Miles was a soldier, as well as some of the others. Mr. Miles has not yet presented any petition, but he has said he was an applicant for the office.

H. A. McKinney is an applicant for the office, not through any great work that he has done for the party, as others have claimed, but he has always been a republican ever since he was a voter, and he thinks that he, as a young republican, has a right to some recognition. We think so too, for Mr. McKinney is a good, honest young republican and a good business man, and we hope for his success.

At Centre Hall.

Chas. Meyer is the present incumbent. His term expires next fall; there are only three applicants heard of at this writing. Andy Reesman, post master some years ago, thinks he could handle the mails very nicely in connection with his tin store. He and Dan Hastings were school mates and thinks he will be remembered this time. He always was a republican and will remain so.

D. B. Brislin, the former post master and an old soldier, is prominently mentioned. David thinks he should be rewarded for services rendered and stands in close with the Belleville bosses.

C. F. Deininger is a hustling young republican clerk in the bank, and made a good showing for the nomination for prothonotary. He is keeping a close eye on the prize also.

Pleasant Gap Statesmen.

J. Abner Noll is the present post master at Pleasant Gap, and his four-year term would expire February 1897. John Griff, the blacksmith and groceryman, is the only aspirant known, and was the former official under Harrison. He is an old soldier.

STORE-KEEPERS PLENTY.

While there is little excitement for post master there are lots of statesmen in this neck of woods anxious to serve their country at \$2 per day, as Store-keepers in Haag's distillery. Jasper Brooks holds that position now and his term expires May 1, 1897. The roll of contestants are as follows:

A. J. Swartz, a retired farmer and music teacher, and life-long republican,

SEES AFTER FIFTY YEARS.

Miss Helen Beers, Blind from Her Birth Receives Her Sight by an Operation.

Miss Helen Beers, of Newtown, Conn., was born blind, fifty years ago, and now for the first time in her life she is able to see. Many oculists have said her case was hopeless, but a short time ago she came under the observation of Dr. L. M. Wilson, of Bridgeport, who is on the surgical staff of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, of New York.

After a careful study of her case he believed that an operation would restore her sight, for he considered it to be a peculiar form of congenital cataract. The operation was performed by Dr. Wilson in the presence of a large number of surgeons at the Bridgeport Hospital. When the bandages were removed for a few moments, Miss Beer became wild when found that she could see perfectly well.

She utterly fails to recognize objects she has handled all her life. She could not tell a bouquet of flowers, and only when she shut her eyes and felt them to be roses. Neither did she know a chair until she put her hands upon it. Whatever she sees she tries to pick up, although it may be seen through a window or be on the opposite side of the room.

Dr. Wilson says it will be very interesting to observe how she will learn to read, for her only knowledge to-day of letters is by the sense of touch.

Prisoners of War.

The members of the Centre County Prisoners of War association met Saturday 9th, in the parlors of the Brant house. About half the members of the Association were in attendance. President Amos Feidler called the meeting to order, and Secretary Frank Wallace called the roll, and the following grizzly veterans answered to their names: Joseph T. Swires, Joseph A. Green, John Griffith, S. H. Williams, J. H. McKelvey, Frank T. Wallace, Fred Censor, S. B. Miller, W. C. Vanvalen, Amos Mullen, D. M. Glenn, Charles Eckenroth, H. B. Miller, and Geo. A. Bayard. After transacting the regular routine business, it was agreed that the members of the Association attend the National encampment of the G. A. R., to be held at Buffalo, in a body in a special car, next August. After passing a resolution of thanks to Colonel Yeager for the use of his parlors, the Association adjourned to meet at the call of its president. The proprietor furnished the old boys with an excellent turkey dinner.

Fast Mail.

On Monday evening Dec. 21, the doors of the opera house will swing wide open for the great scenic production of Lincoln J. Carters "Fast Mail." The railway has often been used by the dramatist, but never before to such an extent as in Carters' famous play, "The Fast Mail." A freight train with fourteen cars, a lighted caboose and a full-sized locomotive, with engineer and fireman crosses the stage in the most realistic and noisy manner, while later in the play a great Mississippi river steamboat, with bells and whistles and engines in full operation, moves in and explodes with terrific force. A great scene is also given of Niagara in real tumbling water. The company is a most efficient one, and there is a great deal of fun to go with the sensational effects. A special car for the scenery is used, and every detail is carefully looked to in the stage production of the play.

Family Reunion.

On Tuesday of last week there was a family gathering at the home of Mr. James Hamilton, of this place, who is 93 years old, and who is confined to his house by illness. Eight of his relatives present were over 80 years old, whose combined ages were 640 years. Eight other relatives were over 50 years old. About 40 relatives took dinner. Four generations were present on this occasion.

Diphtheria Ravages.

The family of W. L. Decker, at Spring Mills, has been seriously afflicted with diphtheria in a most malignant form for several weeks past, and two deaths have occurred in the family, and at this writing another child is reported beyond recovery.

Big Porkers.

Among the big porkers killed this season Mr. Jacob Kerstetter, of Coburn, had four that truly were heavy weights. The four tipped the scales at 1822 or an average of 455½ pounds. They were chester white stock. Thus far this breaks the record.

A Convict at 75.

It is sad to behold that at the age of 75 a man becomes a convict, of which there is an instance over in Lycoming county, Joseph Young, of Cogan House township, aged 65, was sentenced to three years in the Eastern Penitentiary, a few days ago, for placing poison in a pasture field.

AMONG THE POLITICIANS

The Rush for Office and Who are in it.

BELLEVILLE'S POSTMASTERS

Other Ambitious Statesmen who are anxious to serve their Country—Hastings and Dale—Chambers and Gray—Tom Harter wants a reward for his campaign speeches.

The election is over and all is not serene in the enemy's camp. While the republicans seemed to wind up the campaign with general rejoicing and a jubilee, the real performance has just set in. The hungry horde of office seekers are waging internal warfare in the camp of the victorious party. Politics with most men is a matter of spoils, and in this instance the rule seems to be more than verified. At present there are bickerings and backbiting among the leaders. The heeled and camp followers are in a similar state of unrest; everyone seems to have an ambition to serve his country, in some capacity, where a nice fat plum is the consideration for his high sense of duty.

This mania has afflicted those of high and low rank. Belleville being the political centre of the county, here naturally the principal statesmen, who imagine they helped to save the country from a great calamity (?) reside and they want to be rewarded. Starting at the head of the list, "Our Dan," Governor of this great commonwealth, long cherished the ambition to step in Don Cameron's senatorial shoes. The fates seemed to have changed the programme and the Gov. is off the track, probably for a position in McKinley's cabinet, which he no doubt would grace, if summoned thence.

Next on the list of statesmen comes the doughty Colonel, Wm. F. Reeder, Esq., who played such an important part in the past campaigns. Up to this time his reward has only been for dress parade duty, in high state rank, with no emoluments. Glory is all right, but most individuals are intensely human and have a desire to share in substantial as well. It is rumored that the Colonel is nursing an ambition to succeed Harry Hall, as United States attorney for the Western District of Penna., a position that has some fat perquisites. Commandable, Colonel, we admire your ambition and would do anything possible to help you reach the goal. With best wishes for your success, we pass on to the next.

Under Harrison's administration Edward Chambers, Esq., had the good fortune to capture the position of Deputy Revenue Collector, the position which Miller declares Hastings had promised him. There is nothing slow about our friend Chambers, where a fat plum is in sight. Commendable ambition, too. Edward now aims higher, onward, upward—"Excelsior!" as it were. Instead of Deputy, he is said to be working his best card to secure the position of Revenue Collector itself. He is like some other people—knows what he wants and is not afraid to ask for it. Go in old boy, we will be with you to the finish. Keep a stiff upper lip and steady nerve; your star is in its ascendancy. Excelsior! some more. Harrah, for Chambers.

BELLEVILLE POSTOFFICE.

We now come to a delicate portion of our tasks—to enumerate the candidates for the Belleville postoffice. They are as plenty as lice on a bull pup, and are fluttering about and excited like flies at a bung hole of an old molasses barrel. All want to get a pull at the sweet morsel.

The question now is, who will be dispenser of this bit of patronage? Some think it will, as a matter of courtesy, be accorded to Gov. Hastings. Here Al Dale, Esq., invariably takes a spasm. Others argue that congressman Arnold will handle it—then our friend Dale revivifies. Dale claims to be an original Arnold man and made the hot fight against Col. Reeder, last summer, in Arnold's behalf. He also claims to be in touch with Matt Quay—sort of a "right bower" in this section. In this connection a story is related. Recently Gov. Hastings was having his face shaved by Mr. Beck, our popular tonsorial artist. Mr. Beck anxiously inquired what Dale's chances were for the appointment. The reply came: "Al Dale's chances for the post-office are as good as Ham Otto's Indian," around the corner, in front of the tobacco store. If this is correct, Dale and Hastings can not have pooled their issues. Dale claims to be in line, and is cheerful nevertheless.

Harry C. Brew casts a wistful eye in the same direction. The job would just suit him; would make an excellent P. M. He is a brother-in-law of Hon. Jno. G. Love, who, by the way, was a classmate of the "Advance Agent" in Canton, at the Albany Law school. Can old acquaintances be forgot? They are not usually forgotten, as often as cut. Harry

is banking heavily on the Judge's probable pull.

Col. Geo. A. Bayard, one of our old, highly respected citizens, and a severely wounded soldier, is asking modestly for the position. Col. Bayard, in addition to the endorsement of his many friends in Belleville, happens to be a brother-in-law of ex-Mayor Robert Cassidy, of Canton, Ohio. It is said that Mayor Cassidy is in close touch with McKinley and both frequently have sung out of the same hymn book, and frequently exhort at the same class meeting, in that town. That is a good pull, too.

Frank B. Stover, the Allegheny street butcher, is in the race to win, and has numerous signers on his petition. Mr. Stover has always been an active republican, but was always given the cold shoulder at primaries. He has contributed largely to recent campaigns and deserves recognition. He would make a very creditable official.

Sam Diehl, the coach manufacturer, is out for the plum, hot-foot. He too is an early bird, with a petition soon after the election. Sam is a good loyal party man and imagines that any hostility to Col. Coburn is a popular stroke and improves his claims. The Col. has a little axe for such chaps, and he might dispatch you like Weyer disposed of Maceo. Sam, beware; the Colonel may ambush you.

Tom Harter, editor of the Gazette, says he would not dodge the appointment. He deserves much too. He has been running Don Hastings's subsidized organ, and as a distorter of facts in the last campaign and for the many misrepresentations from the stump, along with little stories told to keep audiences from going to sleep, he was the pink of perfection, and deserves recognition. You have a good claim Tom; shove it along.

Editor Taten has been a veteran in the service, piping Hastings music for these many years and got nothing. His extreme modesty and delicacy of manner, in such matters, has kept him from obtaining this prize which he would truly appreciate.

Col. Dunham should slay his cady in the ring; he could dust some of the younger sprouts. The Col. was one of our original free silver advocates and, like some others, from principle, reversed about. Such sacrifices can not go by unnoticed. Jump in, Colonel.

There is a list of dark horses. There is plenty of time ahead, as D. F. Portney, the present incumbent's, term does not expire until about May, 1898, and during that time there will be much trouble in camp.

COMMISSIONERS ATTORNEY.

Here comes another tug of war. County Chairman Gray wants it. Billy should be in position for this pull. Then he is a cousin of the present Court, and that may mean much in his favor.

Clem Dale thinks it would not be more than fair to give him a chance too, at the public crib. Dales are good enough to vote the ticket, and certainly deserve something once in a while. Good argument. Ed Chambers, in case the revenue scheme would fail, would like to have the job of advising the county commissioners how to expend public monies. Ed says he knows he is a pretty mean fellow, but wants the commissioners to believe that Bill Gray is still worse. Actual difference very slight. Col. Reeder is said to have taken the same precaution, and would finally accept this attorneyship.

While these applicants are pushing their claims, all does not seem to be lovely in the forthcoming commissioners board. On the one side they allege that the "Quaker from the Bald Eagle valley" wants to rule the roost. On the other hand Riddle, the sprinter from Pleasant Gap, has an idea that he also will have something to say when the proper time comes.

For commissioners clerk there is plenty in the race. J. Thomas Mitchell, Esq., of Belleville, is willing to sacrifice his practice for the sake of serving his country in an official capacity. Mr. Harry Pontius, of Belleville, who formerly was in the hardware business, finds himself in shape for this place. He is an old soldier, and uncompromising in his politics and is pushing his claim strong. Jolly Joe Barton, of Unionville, thinks he could fill the place to perfection and is pulling a number of strings in that direction. Cyrus Shaffer, of Potters Mills, is another man with a claim who deserves recognition. Then there is John Dubbs, Jr., of Belleville; Clyde Jodon, of Spring; J. E. Rickard, of Rush, late candidate for Register, who lost in the last election. Among these there does not seem to be a certainty yet. Mitchell feels confident of having the pull on Fisher and the others are kicking real rudely, and saying uncomplimentary things about him, in a political way.

DEPUTY TREASURER.

Treasurer Harrison Kline took time by the forelock and his appointment has been made. Wm. T. Royer, his step son, for the past eight years or more foreman in this office, has the position. That he is a good man for the place, we can testify, and believe will make a faithful official.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW

How it is enforced in Belleville schools.

PUPILS ATTEND REGULARLY.

Some of the imperfections of the act—It is a success in our town—Number of pupils at attending our schools—Other information

The superintendent of the public schools of the county informs us that in asking school directors over the county, what they are doing to enforce the Compulsory Educational Law, instead of receiving an answer, he is met with the inquiry "What is the school board of Belleville doing to carry out the law?" and that this is followed with the same statement that according to some of the Belleville newspapers, they are doing nothing.

To show what has been done by the school board of this borough we give herewith a full report of the principal of the schools, made to the board, at their meeting on the 8th, inst. Every material fact contained in this report was within easy reach and could have been obtained from the secretary of the board and the principal of the schools.

The law itself has many imperfections. It is proper however to say that so far as it is within the power of the board to carry out its provision, they have honestly and conscientiously tried to do so.

Those who complain that the streets are full of children, of school age, should remember that anywhere from eight to nine o'clock a. m., the streets are full of children on their way to school and from twelve a. m., to one-thirty p. m., the pupils are going to and from dinner and they are going home anywhere from 4 to 4:30 p. m. With an average daily attendance of about 700 pupils in the public schools, beside those who attend upon the private schools it is not possible that our streets are full of children of that age, that comes within the compulsory attendance law, except at hours above mentioned.

With this we will send to the public a full and careful consideration of the report of the principal of our borough schools:

Three months of the present school year have passed, and naturally there are many who would like to know how the compulsory law operates, and just what has been done to enforce the measure.

As to the first point, it may be said that the law has worked with much less friction and to much better purpose than was anticipated. Certain it is that as one children have attended school regularly thus far this year have not been attending well at all heretofore. As to whether these will continue to attend after the required period has elapsed remains to be shown. Should these children, for whose benefit the law was framed, cease attending just as soon as the law becomes inoperative, then one purpose of the measure will have been defeated, that of begetting in the blithering indifferent such a school spirit as to insure a desire to continue to the end of the term.

Unfortunately there are some features of the law which are very indefinite; for instance, the act does not specify during which sixteen weeks of the term the law shall be enforced, whether during the first sixteen weeks; the last sixteen; or whether the attendance may be scattered throughout the entire school year. Nor is there anything said as to whether the minimum term, six months, shall be considered in applying the law. For districts having a longer term than six months, the last condition above given is very important since eighty days attendance in a total of one hundred and twenty, even though scattered, will insure better results than the same number of days attended in a desultory manner throughout a term of nine months. Again, the law at present permits, on an average, one day's absence for each week, or a total of four days to a month, without requiring an explanation for such absence. Now suppose the child has been permitted to remain out of school the four days, as stated, and then should be kept out a fifth day because of sickness, can the parent be held for noncompliance with the law? Or can a parent be required to account for the absence of his child in each particular instance or only in case the time missed amounts to five or more days in any one month, the excuse to be given at the end of the month?

The foregoing are a few of the difficulties encountered by the authorities in the attempt to carry out the requirements of the law. It has been alleged that the authorities of our borough have made no efforts to enforce the compulsory act; that crowds of children between the ages of eight and thirteen years are daily playing about the streets. The second condition of this charge may be correct since the allegation does not specify during what particular part of the day these children may be seen on the streets; and it should be remembered that the law does not fix the hours of a school day; again, not all the children of the town attend the public schools, many attend the parochial and private schools, these latter have hours differing somewhat from those observed in the public schools; and yet again, one is not easily deceived as to the ages of these children seen on the streets, when judging from appearances. Many children at seven while many at fifteen seem much younger than their years indicate.

When the number of pupils (743) who have thus far attended the public schools during the year, is taken together with those reported as belonging to the private schools, and this number is compared with the total population of the district there certainly seems to be slight chances for crowds of children of any age to be on the streets during school hours. It might here be stated just what has been

done by way of complying with the compulsory law. Sometime before the opening of the schools, the secretary of the board secured from the county commissioners a list of the children returned by the ward assessors as being subject to the Act of May 1895. This list shows that there were in the borough at the time of registration, 356 children subject to the compulsory law. Of this number, forty four attend the parochial and private schools of the district; five are invalids unable to attend at all; five whose names are given could not be located within the borough; ten have moved away; four whose names appear are held by their parents to be over thirteen years of age; while four others have not yet entered school, giving as a reason that they do not have proper clothing.

Immediately after the opening of school, in September, a report was made to the secretary, setting out the names of those registered and not in attendance upon some of the several town schools—public, private or parochial; and at the end of the first month another report was thus made when any who had not yet entered school were notified by an officer appointed by the board, that a compliance with the law must immediately be observed. At the end of each month a report is made touching the attendance. Of those who belong to the public schools, it can be said that with a single exception, where the absence has amounted to five days in any one month that excuses returned by the parents or guardians have always been reasonable. The one exception to which reference is made, is a singular case, every effort has been made by members of the family to have the pupil attend school regularly. They have even carried him, a boy of nine, to the school room; the secretary has also made effort to secure the boy's presence, but all has been in a large measure, to no purpose, unless brought as stated, the boy deliberately absents himself in defiance of his parents' wishes.

Most excuses for absence have been for sickness or because of a want of clothing; and in a few instances the excuse stated that the child's help was absolutely necessary. The term "urgent reasons" may be taken in a sense so broad as to cover almost every conceivable cause of absence except truancy and downright indifference. In conclusion, it can be fairly said that considering all things, the law is being well observed in Belleville; largely, of course, because the great majority of the people in our community are law-abiding and have quite as little intention of violating the school law as they have of violating any of the many statutes by which we are governed.

DAVID O. ETTERS,
Principal.

Want the Fall Brook Railroad.

It is stated a big sensation has been caused in railroad circles by the recent attempt on the part of the Vanderbilts to freeze out General George McGhee, the millionaire owner of the Fall Brook Railroad. The Vanderbilt system will secure possession of the Fall Brook in five year's time, but as it is the connecting link between the New York Central railroad at Lyons, N. Y., and the Philadelphia and Reading at Newberry Junction, they are anxious to secure control immediately.

General McGee was offered a large sum, believed to be over \$10,000,000, for control of the road now, but he has set his price at a tremendous figure, which the Vanderbilts would not accept.

Giving Out Contracts for Ties.

The Pennsylvania company is at present making its regular contracts for new ties to replace the old ones along the tracks and for some little extension work to be done in the spring. Their contracts are always made at the end of the year after the inspections have been completed and it is seen to what extent improvements are required. It is estimated that the number of ties needed for the coming year will be about 500,000. Contracts for that number will accordingly be let.

Death of Geo. E. Leister.

Geo. E. Leister, aged 33 years, proprietor of the Potter house at Philipsburg, died at his home on Saturday afternoon last at 4 o'clock from hemorrhages of the lungs. He was a member of the Tyrone Lodge, Benevolent and protective Order of Elks. His remains were buried at Huntingdon Tuesday afternoon. Deceased was a son of Mr. Leister, proprietor of the Leister House at Huntingdon.

Clerical Orders.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that for 1897 it will issue clerical orders to regularly ordained clergymen in charge of churches located on or near its lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie. To secure the orders clergymen should make application to the nearest ticket agent as soon as possible, as it is desired that all applications reach the General Office by December 15.

He is a Champion Husker.

Joseph Masden, son of John Masden, of Beech Creek township, on November 19th in ten hours husked one hundred and seven bushels of ears of corn on the farm of Charles Salmon. The corn was husked from the shock and Mr. Masden tied the fodder. The corn grew on three-fourths of an acre of ground.

New Industry at Salona.

Salona is to have a new industry. Claire Kessinger and Robert Fulton are now erecting a building for a skunkery. They will stock the building with a number of skunks, which animals they will receive from New York, and will raise them for their furs.