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# The Centre Democrat.

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publish it.

CHAS R KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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## THE CONTEST MOVING ALONG

Result of the Hearing on Last Saturday.

### MORE BOXES CALLED IN

The Democrats and Republicans File Their "Bills of Particulars"—Next Hearing on Saturday.—Petition for an Examination of Game of Chance—County Pays the Bill.

On Saturday afternoon the attorneys in the Miller-Cronister sheriff contest had another round before the court. The attendance was large, indicating that the public are much interested in these proceedings. D. F. Fortney, Esq., in behalf of counsel for Mr. Cronister, read a lengthy document setting forth that in many districts of the county ballots were not counted as the voter had marked them, and in this way many votes that were properly marked for Mr. Cronister were not properly counted. The petition presented asked that the ballot boxes in the remaining districts be brought in and securely stored away until the present proceedings were disposed of. The petition was granted and the same officers, Messrs Henry Montgomery and John Dunlap, were appointed to secure the boxes. All the ballot boxes in the county will be brought to Bellefonte except those in Miles, Haines Penn and South Potter.

Both sides filed their "bill of particulars" in which they specify who were illegal voters and residence, during the last election, and all other irregularities contained in their previous petitions. On next Saturday each party will have an opportunity to file objections to the allegations and the same will be argued.

Edward Chambers Esq., counsel for Miller, presented a petition asking the court to appoint an examiner to recount the ballot cast for sheriff and make proper return. This petition was held over until Saturday, also the one presented to open the ballot boxes.

Mr. Cronister's petition contained the names of over four hundred voters who voted at the late election, that were not properly qualified, by either not having their tax paid, properly registered or resident of the districts.

Miller's petition contained about forty names for the same reason that were illegal. They also allege bribery and the use of liquor in purchasing votes.

Taking a general view of the case it appears that when a search is made there are more irregular votes on the republican ticket than had been anticipated. This contest is nothing but a game of chance for Miller's benefit, in which the county pays all expenses.

The above briefly tells the proceedings to date. What the result will be remains unsolved. Mr. Cronister and his attorneys will leave nothing undone to defend their case. In the meantime Mr. Cronister is attending to the duties of his office in a prompt and business like manner.

### A PROJECTED RAILROAD.

The Bellefonte and Clearfield to Be Pushed This Year.

The following dispatch from Bellefonte appeared in the Pittsburg papers on Monday. We cannot vouch for its correctness:

It is announced that with the opening of spring work will be commenced on construction of the Bellefonte and Clearfield railroad, a line some sixty miles long, connecting this place with the Clearfield region by a direct route. The charter for this road was secured a year ago, and the survey made, when, owing to the uncertainty prevailing in the money market, the matter was allowed to rest, but now it is stated on what is considered reliable authority that the road will be built during the summer. The directors and stockholders held a meeting in this place, and elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Chas. Wilhelm, of Reading; vice president, James Harris, of Bellefonte; secretary, L. T. Mison, of Bellefonte; treasurer, Wilfred Heuser, of Philadelphia. The building of this line means more than the mere opening of a short line to the bituminous coal regions. With its completion there will be no doubt of the building of the Watson and Eastern link, connecting with the Central railroad of Pennsylvania at Mill Hill, and extending northeast through the anthracite regions to New York, making a much more direct route than that which is now had from the central part of the State. There is also the promise that the line will continue as far west as Pittsburg, thus shortening the distance between New York and the west at least 100 miles.

### In Luck.

A report comes from Sugar Valley to the effect that a Greene township farmer has been informed by attorneys in Philadelphia that he is one of the heirs to a fortune of \$2,000,000. The fortune comes to him through his connection with a family named Baker.—Lock Haven Express.

### INDIA'S AWFUL TRAGEDY.

All Europe Aroused to Possible Peril From the Plague.

The greatest tragedy in modern history is being enacted in India under the double curse of plague and famine. The heart of Europe has been touched at last, and the universal sympathy is, perhaps, more keen because it is now tinged with apprehension. It would not be surprising if within a month a genuine plague panic should spread throughout Christendom. The great Powers have taken alarm. Italy has summoned an international conference, to meet forthwith at Rome, to consider measures for dealing with the danger. There is little doubt that the response of the other Governments will be favorable and all the resources of modern science will be speedily arrayed against this hideous foe.

### MAY GET A Foothold IN EUROPE.

Trustworthy information about the plague in Bombay and vicinity is lacking, and regarding the mortality it is only said in general terms that about 90 per cent of those attacked succumb.

The point which most interests Europeans is whether the awful disease is likely to flourish in northern latitudes if infection be introduced here, but no evidence is forthcoming yet. It is argued by medical men, however, that if the plague is dangerous in Hong Kong it would find an equally prolific field in London or Paris so far as climate is concerned.

### HOW THE MALADY SPREADS.

It is generally admitted that the plague is a filth disease, but there are certain peculiarities connected with its spread. Dr. Hankin, the well known bacteriologist, who is investigating the subject in Bombay, fastens the responsibility for carrying the infection upon rats, ants and other insects by which houses are infected. Rats have the plague, they die, and are eaten by ants, which carry the germs into the crevices or buildings, to water taps and sinks.

Thus the poison is diffused and it cannot be eradicated except by fire. This explains the efficacy of the old method of cleansing by conflagration, and at the same time the futility of isolating the sick as in other infectious diseases. The only thing to do is to remove the healthy. Large business houses in Bombay which are infested with rats have been rendered untenable by the ravages of the plague among these vermin. They die by hundreds in the walls and the human occupants have been compelled to vacate the buildings.

The ravages by famine in the interior of India are still far more deadly than the more horrible mortality at Bombay. The victims of the plague are perishing by hundreds daily; those of hunger succumb by thousands. The gaunt, starving millions of India are perishing at a more rapid rate than any army ever suffered before the most deadly engines of destruction devised by man.

### RELIEF AGENCIES AT WORK.

The relief movement is now apparently in full operation. The public conscience and sympathy in this country both have been fully aroused. The response to the appeal is liberal but utterly inadequate. The proportion of givers to sufferers is scarcely more than one in a thousand. It will require the generosity of the whole world to oppose a real check to the ravages of hunger in India.

### Example is of Potent Force.

There is consternation among the male portion of Centre county school teachers. When their county directors met in annual convention they passed resolutions denouncing the use of tobacco in any form by the teachers, and indorsed the law prohibiting the use of the same. They also demanded that in the future the county superintendent enter, on every certificate granted, whether or not the holder is a user of tobacco in any form. The directors are now quietly investigating to find out how many of the teachers use tobacco, with a view of demanding that they either quit its use or resign teaching. As a good many of the male teachers either chew or smoke when not engaged in teaching, they are greatly alarmed.

### Parsons—McDonald.

Mr. Elery Parsons, of Unionville, and Miss Anna McDonald, of Pine Grove Mills, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, in the parlors of the Brockerhoff House, on Thursday morning at eleven o'clock. Rev. J. W. Rue, of the Methodist church performed the ceremony.

### Agriculturists Elect Officers.

At a meeting of the Clinton county Agricultural Society at Mackeyville recently the following officers were elected: President, Joel A. Herr; Vice President, Dr. J. M. Dumm; Secretary, J. R. Porter; Treasurer, W. H. Dornblaser; Delegates to State College, A. L. Sweezy, L. W. Dornblaser and W. H. Dornblaser.

## PECULIAR CASES OF LONGEVITY.

Centre County Has a Woman of 107 With a Son Aged 82.

### BOTH STRONG AND ACTIVE.

Romance of Mrs. Nancy Barger and Her Peaceful Life Among the Mountains of Central Pennsylvania—From the Philadelphia Press of Monday.

Located in the very heart of Centre County mountains, on what is almost the exact central point of the State, is a little old-fashioned log cabin. This little home is of far more than ordinary interest from the fact that it has been standing there for more than half a century. But while this little cabin attracts considerable attention, it is not half as interesting as the two people who live therein. They are Mrs. Nancy Barger and her bachelor son, Samuel. The former is 107 years old and the latter 82. Together they live on a little farm that has been cleared away in the woods. There is probably no another instance in the State where a son of 82 years supports his mother of 107.

The story of the life of "Grandma" Barger, as she is familiarly called, is an interesting one. Notwithstanding she has long passed her five-score-year mark she still possesses all her faculties, and is to-day enjoying far better health than many much younger. She might truly be said to have enjoyed the acquaintance of two distinct generations of friends. All of her early friends have long since passed away, and "Grandma," as it were, had to commence making friends all over again, and her friends throughout the county are numbered by the score.

The inside history of the life of "Grandma" Barger reads very much like a fairy tale. She was born on Middle Ridge, in Cumberland County, a short distance below Harrisburg, on September 14, 1790. Her father and mother, William Tate, were among the very first settlers of the community, and, after having cleared a small farm, prospered as early day agriculturists were wont to do. Nancy was the fourth born of a family of ten. She had five sisters and four brothers, all of whom are now dead, the last to die being Elizabeth, who resided in Carlisle until her death, several years ago. When Nancy was scarcely 20 years of age she fell in love with George Barger, a forgerman by occupation, George was a handsome, stalwart man, and possessed many excellent traits, but for some unknown reason Nancy's parents objected to the match, and so the young lovers were separated. George was drafted and served in the War of 1812, and Nancy's parents supposed that the childish love affair of their daughter was forever a thing of the past. Nancy, however, bided her time, and although she had many suitors for her hand, remained single, for she had promised George to remain true to him, and her promise she determined to keep.

At last the rebellion was over and George returned home. He was now a full-fledged officer and even handsomer than when he had first shouldered a musket to defend his country's honor. He had come back to claim his sweetheart.

But Nancy's parents were still opposed to the match and although they could give no reason to the handsome young officer, they would not give their consent to their daughter's marriage. Finally George and Nancy decided to run away and get married. This they did the next day, the ceremony being performed at the home of Nancy's sister, in Perry County.

The elopement only served to deepen the anger in the hearts of her parents and two years later Nancy, after making a last futile appeal for forgiveness, persuaded her husband to remove to Centre County, where the Valentines, who had come up from Chester County to embark in the iron business, had built a forge and held out inducements for good workmen.

With Samuel, then a babe in swaddling clothes, and her husband she started overland in a wagon for Bellefonte. Three weeks later they reached that place and found a settlement of a dozen houses supporting three stores. George found good employment in the Valentine works, and staid there until 1820, when Roland Curtin, Sr., the father of the war Governor, hired him to work at the new Eagle Works, which had just been built at Curtin, five miles below Bellefonte. Mrs. Barger, during her stay in Bellefonte, saw many a pack train start to Pittsburg with its load of iron and the product that was not disposed of at that market was shipped in arks down Spring Creek to Bald Eagle, thence to the Susquehanna River and Havre de Grace. She was at the old Washington Furnace the day James Monk, the second murderer to be arrested in Centre County, was hanged and well remembers the excitement of that day in Bellefonte.

After moving to Curtin's Works, they removed to Mill Hill, and then back to Curtin's again in 1832. From that time until the present day Nancy has been an occupant of the little house in which she now lives. In 1852 her husband died and she was left with a grown-up family of seven children, all of whom are living except two. William resides in Clearfield County, and with his twin brothers, Constance and James, served his country all through the Rebellion. Of the four children she sent at her country's call all returned but John, Samuel, the eldest, was enrolled four times, but, never being drafted, he remained at home to care for his mother and two sisters.

A visitor to Mrs. Barger a few days ago found her seated by a crackling old hearth, on which was burning an oak log. She is extremely modest, and appeared very shy about speaking of herself. She soon, however, overcame her backwardness, and answered questions with an accuracy that was almost startling. She is of medium height, remarkably active and is in full possession of all her faculties, except that her hearing has been slightly affected by a severe attack of grip last year. Within the last month she has been compelled to resort to the use of glasses in order to read, but these seem to be the only failings she has thus far experienced. She dressed up for her picture with almost as much interest as would have been displayed by a maid of 16. She still does a little housework, and takes great pleasure in attending to her garden. Aside from a withered, slightly emaciated form, she would pass for one far younger in years. Her voice is strong and clear, and her firm hand-clasp as she said good-by, showed that she still possessed great vitality.

Just as her visitors were leaving, Samuel, her bachelor boy (?), put in an appearance. He had been hauling wood and just stopped for dinner. When he said that he was 82 years old on the 17th of last September, the visitors took another look at the giant mule hitched to his wagon, and wondered whether it, too, had been a sharer in such remarkable longevity. Samuel had never had his picture taken, and seemed greatly pleased when asked to stand for one. By way of furnishing a bit for a biographical sketch, he said that he had never smoked nor played cards in his life, but when asked whether his abstinence included rum, he wiped the tobacco juice off his chin, winked his eye, and said: "No, I ain't got no objection to whisky and beer."

Six years ago Mrs. Barger celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth, and the George L. Potter Post, G. A. R., of Milesburg, presented her with the chair in which she sat for her picture. Notwithstanding her advanced age, there is everything to indicate that Nancy Barger will live for some time yet in her home, which is within a stone's throw of the homestead property of the late Judge Charles Huston, father of the Pennsylvania land laws, and Judge of the Supreme Court by appointment of Governor Shulze, in 1826.

In connection with this it can be said that she was well acquainted with the eminent jurist and recalled his vivid descriptions of the excitements he experienced after joining General Washington's expedition that passed through Carlisle to suppress the whisky riot that arose when he was a tutor at Dickinson College, in 1794. Her memory is her strongest faculty, and she recalls dates and events in a manner that surprises even the most expectant. Her's has been a life of usefulness, and, although it is simplicity at all times, and never has she been known to speak of her own doings, yet neighbors credit her with two grand traits—a true religious spirit and an everlasting desire to help others.

### Caught in His Own Trap.

Abe Westershouse, of Slate Run, Lycoming county, went into the Black Forest recently to build a bear pen of logs. He seemed to have been new at the business, for when the pen was finished he set the trap and crawled into the bait to the spindle. In some manner the trap was sprung and Abe was a prisoner for five days subsisting on a sheep's head during his imprisonment. He was released by a party of hunters who accidentally discovered the pen.

### Karhaus Mines Abandoned.

The Karhaus coal mines have been abandoned, and the operators are now removing all the cars that were used in the mines. The mining of the coal at that place has become an unprofitable business, hence the abandonment. While the mines were in operation from ten to thirty car loads were taken out every day.

## EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL

What Will McKinley do for Suffering Cuba?

### LEGISLATION IN PROSPECT.

Some of the Important Events that Attract Special Attention—Bills that will Soon be Considered and Other Important Events.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Jan. 18th, 1897.

Poor Cuba! The formal announcement that John Sherman had been compelled to become McKinley's Secretary of State, in order to make a place in the Senate for Boss Hanna, makes it certain that unless this Congress does something for Cuba, it will have to go on fighting alone. There has been a suspicion for some time that McKinley occupied very nearly the same attitude towards Cuba that President Cleveland does, and Mr. Sherman has made that suspicion a certainty by saying: "I do not believe this government should interfere between Spain and the Cubans. I do not believe this government should attempt to settle the war or take any steps putting upon us the burden of determining the nature of rule in Cuba in case the Cubans win." As this language was used when he was just from the presence of McKinley and after he had accepted the Secretaryship of State, there isn't the slightest doubt that it is an advance statement of McKinley's Cuban policy. It is several shades worse than the present Cuban policy President Cleveland has at least tried to bring about peace. McKinley proposes to do absolutely nothing and to let the butchery continue indefinitely. This may result in stirring up the friends of Cuba in Congress. There are now in Washington petitions signed by six hundred thousand American citizens, asking Congress to recognize the Independence of Cuba.

It is evident that Speaker Reed doesn't expect Representative Boatner, of La., who was unseated at the last session of Congress and re-elected to fill the vacancy and for a full term beginning March 4th, next, to be unseated in the contest which is again being made for his seat. Otherwise he would not have selected Mr. Boatner, who is one of those rare democrats who favors protection to a certain extent, to fill the democratic vacancy on the Ways and Means Committee. Representative Bailey, of Texas, who was given the vacancy on the Rules Committee, was it is said given his choice of the vacancies by Mr. Reed. Charlie Crisp, son of the late ex-Speaker was given the vacancy on the post office committee, and Representative Stokes, of S. C., that on the Committee on Agriculture.

The republican steering committee of the Senate has given the Nicaragua Canal bill the first place in the order of business of the Senate, which is merely another way of killing the time during the four days a week the leisurely Senate condenses to sit during this session, as they know that the bill has no chance of getting acted on in the house.

Those members of Huntington's lobby, who are not regularly on his pay roll, found themselves out of a job, when the house sat down so hard on the Pacific Railroad Funding Bill. The question of legislation on the subject is still being considered, but Huntington seems at last to realize that the numerous lobbies he had at work in Washington did the funding bill more harm than good, and from now on, the lobbying will not be so openly conducted. If there is any legislation on this matter it is likely to be along the line of the bill which has been reported favorably to the Senate, and which is now being considered by the House committee. It provides for a commission of cabinet officials with authority to settle the whole business.

If the free homestead bill fails to get through, Speaker Reed will make numerous western enemies who will be heard from if he is again a candidate for his party's presidential nomination. The bill when passed by the House only provided for free homesteads in Oklahoma, but before the Senate passed it, amendments were added, extending the area of free homesteads. When the bill went back to the House, instead of allowing the House to vote on the Senate amendments so that the bill could be sent to Conference, if they were not accepted by the House, Speaker Reed sent the bill back to the Committee on Public Lands, and its friends are whispering that he did it for the purpose of having the bill smothered.

Representative and Senator-elect Money, of Miss., thus disposes of a sensational story sent from Washington: "There is not a word of truth in the story that I have the slightest misunderstanding with Consul-General Lee growing out of my letters on the Cuban question. General Lee and I are the best of friends, and

there is not the least particle of a chance of our disagreeing. I was as much amused over the newspaper publication that there was to be a duel between us as the General will be when he sees it."

The much talked of bill authorizing the President to appoint delegates to any International Monetary Conference that may be called, has been introduced in the Senate. This is a measure for which everybody in Congress will vote, and which nobody, in or out of Congress, believes will ever amount to a row of pins, so far as increasing the use of silver as money is concerned.

### INCORRECT REPORTS.

The reports published in the daily papers, that Dr. Gerhart accompanied his children to a dance on Christmas evening, have misrepresented that gentleman. Dr. Gerhart has always opposed his children attending these assemblages, and at last prohibited them from doing so. Anxious to gratify his children, he finally yielded to their desire to attend an assembly, held on Christmas evening. Towards eleven o'clock, concerned about their welfare, he suddenly decided to go to the place and see for himself their surroundings. He found about one hundred specially invited people, representatives of the most intelligent and refined circles of Bellefonte, gathered together. A large proportion, easily three-fourths, were members of Christian churches, among whom were some of the foremost people of his own church. After remaining a short time, he prepared to leave, when his friends cordially and earnestly invited him to remain and partake of refreshments. He did so and then left the hall. Great indignation is felt, both by the people in his church and in the community, over the injustice of the reports sent abroad over Dr. Gerhart's action.

It is the sentiment of the Christian people of this place that Dr. Gerhart simply did his duty as a parent, when anxious about his children, to ascertain whether the surroundings were proper, and for this we would heartily commend his conduct.

### A BILL TO PREVENT TREATING.

Sweeping Provisions to be Presented by Mr. McElheny.

Representative William W. McElheny, of Pittsburg, has prepared a bill against the "treating habit," which he soon will present at Harrisburg. The title of this proposed law is: An act to prohibit any person or persons from paying for or promising to pay for, any spirituous, vinous, malt or brewed liquor, or any admixture thereof that was, or is to be supplied, furnished or delivered to or for the use of any other person or persons," and it applies to barkeepers furnishing such drinks as well as consumers buying.

It is further provided that it be unlawful for any person to offer to pay for any food "of whatever kind, with which liquor is or may be supplied or given away, for the use of any other person.

The punishment provided for violation of this law is a fine of not more than \$100 nor less than \$25, or an imprisonment of not more than six months or less than one month or both.

Representative McElheny stated that he had long considered the habit of treating, especially that of indiscriminate treating, as a great evil, and thinks it should be stopped.

### PROMINENT ODD FELLOWS.

On Monday there was some stir among the I. O. O. F. in this section. The occasion being the presence of the members of the Grand Lodge. They were: Grand Master, Amos H. Hall, of Philadelphia; Deputy Grand Master, W. Galer Thomas, of Scranton; Grand Warden, Samuel McKeever, of Philadelphia; Past Grand, Esau Loomas, of West Chester; Past Grand Master, Chas. Chalfout, and M. Richard Muckle, of Philadelphia, and Past Grand Montgomery.

In the afternoon they visited State College, where the new hall was dedicated.

In the evening the same officers came to Bellefonte and an important session was held to confer the Past Grand degree and give instructions in the unwritten work of the order. About two hundred and fifty were present, delegations were here from most every part of the county.

### After Them.

During the past week Policeman Garis has been trying to capture two young chaps Jacob Meese and James Reed, of this place, on the charge of stealing eight pound of butter from C. M. Resides, a hunker, while his team was hitched at Gerbrick's mill. The boys divided the spoils and gave it to other boys to sell for them.

Policeman Garis visited Reed's house but was unable to get his man. When he left the house several shots were fired, whether at him he could not say, but he came in a manner that did not suit him and he may make further arrests.