

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ ED. & PROP. CIRCULATION, OVER 1800. Telephone Call 183.

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COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR 1897. Table listing names, addresses, and positions for various districts in the county.

HON. S. TAYLOR, Chairman. ROYD A. MUSSEY, Secretary. WILLIAM J. KEPLER, Assistant Secretary.

EDITORIAL

LET THEM ANSWER.

At this time there is a universal cry of distress and want from all quarters of the country. This condition existed for some time; but when the cold, piercing blasts of winter came upon us...

On the other hand we are told that the banks, in all the great cities, are overflowing with money seeking an investment at any low rate of interest.

Here is a situation for our political economists to explain. What is the cause? Who can prescribe the remedy?

From a political point of view, McKinley's election has failed to bring about that speedy restoration of confidence. The gold standard has been the policy of this country since 1873...

The writer is not a pessimist, is not a hater of his fellowmen; does not believe in anarchy or such like, but the tendency of the times, as indicated by recent events...

The great estates and opulence of Rome are not forgotten. The downfall of that great nation occurred when the stability and the prosperity of her common people was undermined by grievous and unjust burdens of taxation...

Let us profit from such calamities. First of all we must jealously guard the masses from imposition and unjust legislation.

The coming of the McKinley administration is the occasion for all kinds of monopolies and aggregations of wealth to flock to the national capital to secure some favored legislation...

Such is the alarming condition of affairs, as we see them. Is there not enough patriotic sentiment left to avert an impending crisis and bitter controversy between the classes...

The men to whom this republic has given the control of affairs promised much. The election has not restored the condition as yet, and the outlook is not promising. They must make an accounting. The people are growing impatient.

FOR BETTER ROADS.

Secretary Thomas J. Edge Suggests Some Changes in the Law. Secretary Thomas J. Edge of the state department of agriculture, in his second annual report, discusses the rural road question pretty fully. In his report he says: "Under our present modified road law the supervisor is empowered to collect 25 per cent of the tax in cash, and he had power to use this portion of the fund for the purchase of any needed road implements, and all he now lacks is the hearty endorsement of those who have elected him to office."

"Deputy Secretary Hamilton, after a careful investigation of the road question in all of its bearings, states that our farmers are annually expending more than \$3,500,000 in the repair of 80,000 miles of road which at the end of the year are in no better condition than at its beginning. If this is the case, and the correctness of this statement is beyond doubt, it is a question as to whether, without some radical changes in the system and its expenditures, these officers should be placed in charge of any larger amount of funds."

"Under our present system of taxation, which hardly has its parallel in the other states, it is not just that all of the expense of the permanent improvements of roads should fall upon the local or rural taxpayer, for in that case the cities, towns and boroughs whose inhabitants use the roads fully as much as the farmer, pay in proportion to the expense. If both state and township pay the total cost, the cities, towns and boroughs still fail to contribute their share."

"Until the question of state and county aid has been definitely determined by proper legislation I would suggest changes in our present law by which not less than one-half of all the road taxes should be paid in cash. Following this, I would further suggest that other changes should be made in the duties of supervisors so that they shall outline and direct road repairs, giving them much the same position in relation to the roads as is given the school directors, and like them, they should serve without compensation."

"Empower them to appoint one road master for each road district and make it his duty to work upon the roads of his district at all proper times during the year, and furnish work for all who wish to work out half of their taxes not paid in cash. The supervisors should employ the road master, and these in turn should under regulations made by the supervisor, oversee the work of the taxpayers."

One of Philadelphia's largest business houses was closed up last week, by sheriff Cronister, and in Bellefonte two stores went through the same process during the past month. McKinley confidence may be good for some people somewhere, but it has not done a continental for anyone in this section. Confidence is a mighty poor diet when the wind is whistling around the corners at a 40-mile gale and the bank has notified you that your account is overdrawn and notes gone to protest. The people have just cause to expect much—they were promised much during the campaign."

THE condition of the poor classes in Chicago, New York and other leading cities this winter is one that has caused alarm. The many unemployed has caused destitution, want and misery that requires the most serious attention of the authorities. There has been little improvement in business since the re-emption of the gold standard and McKinley tariff plunderers to power. The fond expectations of the campaign have not materialized.

Hadley's comet is coming back. This is the comet that in 1456, after the battle of Belgrade, terrified Turks and Christians alike, and even at its latest return in 1835 and in a century of civilization, frightened the ignorant and superstitious. It is to be regretted that although the eye of science already sees it, within the orbit of Neptune, it will not be visible to the world until 1911.

MARK Hanna wants to succeed John Sherman as State Senator from Ohio. Foraker and Bushnell are also after the same position and the result is they are having an interesting fight. Hanna's boodler, and pull on McKinley, put him in a strong position to win.

THE county auditors expect to issue their statement of receipts and expenditures of the various county officers during the past year. The statement will likely be ready for circulation in our issue of next week.

W. J. BRYAN recently sent a crisp \$100 silver note to a namesake. He appreciated the honor and expressed it in a substantial way.

—Frank N. Moore, special agent of the department of agriculture, while going the rounds of the candy trade, discovered in the analysis on candy that a large percentage contained rum and brandy. This candy sells for 40 and 50 cents a pound, and the dealers say it is largely sought after by boys and girls between the ages of ten and sixteen years. Mr. Moore also had a sample of rock and rye drops which got its name from the fact that no rock and rye was found in its ingredients, but instead contained a liberal quantity of tartaric acid.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

A Bill to Abolish Borough and Township Poorhouses.

THE SCHOOL FUND DISTRIBUTION.

A Decision by Secretary Reeder Affecting Many Corporations Doing Business in the State—A Bill Fixing Seven Months as the Minimum School Term.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 25.—Owing to the fact that the election of the United States senator is over, the appointments made and the various committees formed, the legislature will now proceed to the vigorous dispatch of business. There is likely to be a little friction between opposing factions on some matters of legislation, but it is believed that harmony will prevail in the end. This was manifest after the introduction of a concurrent resolution calling for an investigation of the state treasury and auditor general's departments, which was introduced by Senator Mitchell, of Jefferson. Senator Flinn opposed the resolution on the grounds that there were no charges against either department, and therefore the resolution was unnecessary, but it passed with few dissenting votes. When the resolution was introduced in the house, Mr. Bliss, of Delaware, was quick to oppose it, because it did not specify when the committee must report. Mr. Bliss moved to amend it so the committee would be required to report not later than March 15. The motion was carried. Some of the members feared it was presented to head off intended legislation. It is thought a motion will be made to reconsider it this week, in which event a lively discussion will no doubt ensue.

Proposed Legislation. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture John Hamilton's road bill, as introduced in the senate last week by Senator McQuinn, of Clearfield, will receive early attention, and it is thought it will be passed with little opposition. The principal features of this bill are that it provides for the election of three supervisors in each township; one to serve one year, one to serve two years and one to serve three years. They are to levy a tax, which shall not exceed ten mills on each dollar on the last adjusted valuation for county purposes, and a greater rate than ten mills, but not more than thirty, may be levied by the court of quarter sessions upon the petition of the board, with their unanimous recommendation, and due cause shown, each resident male taxable to be assessed the sum of \$1 in addition to the millage referred to. This bill also provides that a person eligible to the office of supervisor must be a freholder. A road master is to be employed who shall work on the roads at least seven months in the year. One-half of the tax is payable in money and the other half in work. The provisions of this act is to go into effect the first Monday of March, 1898.

Mr. Gould, of Erie, will offer a bill early in the session to abolish borough and township poorhouses. This will embrace many of the features of the bill introduced during the session of 1896, which was defeated owing to its being considered too comprehensive. It is now framed to eliminate any of the objectionable features of the former bill. The friends of this bill, who have been laboring industriously in its interests, are very sanguine of its becoming a law.

Distribution of the School Appropriation. Mr. Bell, of Millin county, will shortly introduce a bill providing for a more equitable basis in the distribution of the school appropriation. Instead of this distribution being made on the percentage of taxables in the several school districts it provides that it be made in accordance with the number of children of school age in the district. Governor Hastings condemns the present method, and recommends its abolition in part. He bases his objections on the reports of the state superintendent of public instruction for 1891 and 1893. He finds that there is not a single county in the state in which there is not at least one district that received in 1891 more than double as much per school as some other districts in the state. The object of the state in the appropriation of money for public education, he believes, is not to abolish taxes, but to abolish illiteracy, and the aid should be in proportion to the need.

How to remedy the overcrowded hospitals for the insane and penitentiaries is a question having some consideration at the present time.

A bill is now in course of preparation requiring each county of the commonwealth to establish a hospital for the insane, to be operated in connection with the poor farms, and these to receive state aid to assist them in their successful operation. It is hoped in this way to dispose of this part of the problem. Rumor is current an effort will be made during the session to provide a suitable building in which to keep the criminal insane. It is thought by some that the times demand an institution of that kind, and that it deserves special consideration.

There seems to be a strong sentiment developing of the advisability of lopping off at least \$1,000,000 in school appropriations, and that the amount of money appropriated by the state to the schools is much too great. Instead of its being an incentive to further the interests of the public schools it is used in many districts to reduce taxation.

A Bill at Corporations. General Reeder, secretary of the commonwealth, has decided a question in respect to stock dividends that has never been adjudicated in state departments or the courts of the state. This relates to a method employed by many of the corporations of Pennsylvania of retaining their exclusive franchise, by increasing their capital stock in order to avoid paying their dividends, which would have amounted to more than 8 per cent. for five years upon the capital stock. This decision grew out of an application made by Scranton capitalists for a water company charter, in the borough of Philadelphia, against which the Philadelphia Water company made a protest on the grounds that it had exclusive franchise. It was shown at a hearing before Secretary Reeder that the old company had paid in dividends in fifteen years 85 per cent.; and in stock dividends, representing surplus earnings expended for the improvement and betterment of the plant, \$27,000. It was contended by the company's attorney that these stock dividends were in reality investments by the stockholder, and could not be taken into consideration in estimating the profits of the concern, for the purpose of terminating its exclusive franchise.

In his decision the secretary declared that whether the dividends were made in stock or in cash they were the profits realized by the stockholders upon their

original investments, and had precisely the same legal effect as though declared in cash. The protest was, therefore, overruled. This decision will affect many corporations doing business in the state.

The Pure Food Law. Attorneys of prominence are of the opinion that Judge Hemphill, of Chester county, in his decision in declaring that the title of the pure food act of 1893 is not sufficient to cover the substitution of inferior or cheaper substances drew a little too fine in his interpretation of the law, and that if the same were applied to other laws on the statute books they would also be declared unconstitutional. They think that, with all due deference to the able judicial, that his decision will not be sustained in the higher courts. The point involved was as to whether cotton seed oil sold as olive oil came within the limits of the pure food act, which in his decision he declares this does not cover. The state authorities are determined to carry this through the higher courts, and bring to justice every offender of this law. The law is considered too important to be set aside in any particular case. The history of the investigations in this respect has disclosed many very flagrant violations. Since this law has been enforced there has been a radical improvement in the preparation of foods. This is particularly so in condiments, and it is now unnecessary to swallow a certain amount of buckwheat hulls, coccaut shells and sand to get a little pepper.

Two New Committees. Two new committees have been established in the legislature, viz., one on public roads and highways and the other on game and fisheries.

The committee on vice and immorality has been changed to law and order. Great pressure is brought to bear upon Governor Hastings to re-appoint Dr. Shaffer superintendent of public instruction, by a number of the educators of the state, but there are other candidates whose friends claim more consideration. Among them are Deputy Superintendent Honck, Professor Ness, principal of California Normal school, D. F. Waller, principal of Indiana Normal school, who held this position under Governor Beaver, and Professor Cooper, principal of the Edinboro Normal schools. It is thought by those who oppose the appointment of Dr. Shaffer that in consequence of the extreme partisanship manifested by Governor Pattison in his appointment that he is not entitled to the position. While it is the intention of Governor Hastings to choose this officer from a non-partisan standpoint the demands of his party and the protests of the friends of the other candidates will compel him to select another man than Dr. Shaffer for this position.

It was given out here a few days ago, that Louis Davidson, son-in-law of Senator Quay, and brother of Hon. James Davidson, deceased, will be the choice of Beaver county for congress. Although Senator Quay is bitterly opposed to this, yet some of his friends are very active in their efforts to secure the nomination of his son-in-law. The friends of Mr. Davidson feel that the circumstances in connection with the death of his brother entitle Louis Davidson to some consideration in the campaign.

Speaker Boyer is determined to secure more dignity and order in the house of representatives during the session; and will carry out his determination to keep this body to the degree of decorum that should be characteristic. He will commence to enforce the rules as soon as the house convenes again.

Governor and Mrs. Hastings will give a reception to the state officials and legislators at the executive mansion Tuesday evening, Feb. 9.

Mr. McElhenny, member of the house from Allegheny, says he is receiving many letters from persons addicted to drinking urging him to exert his strong efforts to secure the passage of his anti-treating bill, and that he is flooded with communications from all parts of the state. These letters suggest that they are heartily tired of the social custom which requires a man to drink more than is good for him, and to spend money in saloons as a matter of courtesy.

Workmen write "that this law would be welcomed by them, and their wives and families, who would have more money for the necessities of life." It is believed that this bill will be a very popular one, and will be passed with little opposition.

A Longer School Term. There will be three important features of school legislation this session. Representative Hammond, of Westmoreland, has prepared a bill, which fixes seven months as the minimum duration of a school term. This is offered in the interests of the country districts. The granger element will insist on a special appropriation of a half million dollars for the establishment of township high schools. An act was passed during the last session of the legislature, providing for the establishment of three kinds of high schools; first, second and third class. The first class schools are to have four year courses, the second three year courses, and third two year courses. The proposed act will ask for a pro rata division of the half million dollars, according to the classification of the school. The low condition of the state's finances gives little assurance of the success of this bill.

Senator Merrick, of Tioga county, introduced a bill in the senate last week which provides for the division of the school appropriation in three parts. One-third is to be divided according to the number of paid teachers employed, one-third pro rata to the pupils, and the remaining third according to the number of taxables in the school district. The bill also provides for a triennial registration of taxables, and an annual census of school children between the ages of 6 and 15.

The controversy over the appointment of members of the soldiers' orphan school commission continues. Governor Hastings is very firm in his determination not to approve the recommendation of Judge Dartie, the commander of the G. A. R. in Pennsylvania, favoring Thomas Samples' selection on this commission. It is altogether probable that another person will be placed in this position.

Senator Grady, of Philadelphia, is determined that he will resign his seat in the senate in March, owing to pressure of business affairs. He is the father of the senate at the present time, having been elected in 1876, and entered this body in 1877. Almost all who were members of the senate at that time are dead.

The street railway interests will ask for some important legislation. One feature of the proposed legislation is the provision requiring suitors in damage suits against traction and street railway companies to furnish a bond to cover all the probable costs of the suit to protect the commonwealth in case the suit fails.

\$3,400.00 CASH AND GIVEN FREE EACH MONTH FOR Sunlight SOAP WRAPPERS. As follows: 4 First Prizes, each of \$100 Cash - \$4,000.00; 20 Second " " " \$100 " " " 2,000.00; 40 Third " " " \$25 Gold Watches - 1,000.00. Total given during 12 mos. 1897, \$40,800.00.

HOW TO OBTAIN THEM. Competitors to save a sunny SUNLIGHT SOAP Wrapper as they can collect. Cut out the top portion of each wrapper, that portion containing the heading "SUNLIGHT SOAP". These (called "coupons") are to be sent postage fully paid, enclosed with a sheet of paper stating competitor's full name and address and the number of Coupons sent in, to LEVER BROS., Ltd., New York, marked on outside Wrapper (unless hand carried) with NUMBER OF THE DISTRICT Competitor lives in.

HOW TO FIND OUT. Fill a bottle or common glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates a diseased condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is positive evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back, is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root, the great kidney remedy fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effect following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggist price fifty cents and one dollar. For a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent free by mail, mention the Centre Democrat and send your full post-office address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS. —Ex-Coms Frank Adams is in New York city this week where he has a good situation in view, in the railway service.

—On Tuesday evening a party of young people from Bellefonte had a drive to the Old Fort where they partook of an elegant supper.

—The county auditors completed their work on Wednesday having passed upon all the county's receipts and expenditures. The present board got through in less time than usual.

—J. S. McCargar arrived home this week after an extended trip throughout New York and eastern states selling fence territory. He expects to remain at home several weeks, until warmer weather comes.

—FOR SALE—A fancy stock of groceries and fixtures, located in a good town with paper mill, clay works, brick works, tanneries, and other thriving industries. Has good reason for selling. Address, P. O. Box 373, Lock Haven, Pa.

Howard District Institute. A Teachers' District Institute will be held in Howard Friday and Saturday, January 29 and 30, when it is expected the following programme of exercise will be presented:

FRIDAY EVENING JAN. 29. Addresses of welcome by Rev. J. W. Forrest and J. Frank Holter. Responses by six local chairmen.

Lecture by Professor G. D. Robb. (Some popular educational subject.) Recitation, by Carrie DeLong.

SATURDAY JAN. 30. History, by Samuel W. Butler. Spelling, W. H. Clarke. Primary Reading, Miss Annetta Stover. Mental Arithmetic, Miss Annie Essington, Miss E. J. Stroop. Improvements of Modern Science, J. Frank Holter.

Geography, R. C. Holmes, R. E. Hockman, W. F. Leathers. How to Prevent Tardiness, T. S. DeLong, Miss Edith Irwin, J. W. Beck. Penmanship, I. A. Zeigler. Arithmetic—Ed Hancock, H. G. Leathers, Chas. DeLong, S. M. Weber; Misses Annie Delaney Alice Neff, Esther G. Leathers, Maggie V. Thomas.

How to Teach Literature in Grammar Schools, R. C. Holmes. Grammar, J. L. Gardner and teachers of Howard township.

How to Secure Regular Attendance, Theodore Fletcher. Recitation, Miss Edith Irwin. Language and Composition, by any one.

Questions Box. Closing remarks by the chairman.

1. Every month each of the 4 districts prizes will be sent as follows: The 1st Competition who sends in the largest number of coupons from the district in which he or she resides will receive \$100 Cash. The 2nd Competition who sends in the next largest number of coupons from the district in which they reside will receive a lady's or gentleman's Pierce Special Bicycle, price \$100.00. The 3rd Competition who sends in the next largest number of coupons from the district in which they reside will receive a lady's or gentleman's Pierce Special Bicycle, price \$50.00. The 4th Competition who sends in the next largest number of coupons from the district in which they reside will receive a lady's or gentleman's Pierce Special Bicycle, price \$25.00. A printed list of winners in each district will be forwarded to competitors in about 21 days after each competition closes.

Reduced Rates to Washington. For the benefit of those who desire to attend the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of President-elect McKinley, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Washington March 1, 2, 3 and 4, valid to return from March 4 to 8, at the following rates: From New York, \$5.00; Philadelphia, \$5.40; Baltimore, \$1.60; Harrisburg, \$5.06; Williamsport, \$8.79; Buffalo, \$11.20; Rochester, \$10.45; Altoona and Pittsburg, \$10.00; and from all other stations on the Pennsylvania system at reduced rates.

If you want the finest Olives, Olive Oil, Flavoring Extracts, Sardines, Pickles, Ketchups, Sauces, Macaroni, Gelatine, Mustards and Salad Dressings, come to us for them. Sechler & Co.

LEGAL NOTICE. ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Jeremiah Mayes, Jr., deceased, late of Patton township. Letters of administration on said estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will present them without delay for the settlement, to the undersigned. DAN. EL. SHINN, Administrator.

PARTNER WANTED. Will give one-third interest in a patent Automatic Adjustable Bag Holder, to any person who will furnish \$500 to secure the patent. Thousands will use them, as no successful holder is on the market. The cost to manufacture is a trifle. Patent office search already made. Inquire at DEMOCRAT OFFICE.

ASSIGNEE'S SALE. In assigned estate of W. Miles Walker. By order of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre county. All the right title and interest of W. Miles Walker in and to 300 shares of the Black Granite Brick Company and all the interest in or claim in leaseholds, and by Westmoreland coal lands, owned and controlled by said company, will be offered at public sale, at the Court House, in Bellefonte, on Saturday February 6th, at 2 p. m. Terms cash. ELLIS L. ORVIS, Assignee.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. In the Orphan's Court of Centre county, in the matter of the estate of Harriet Linn, late of Bellefonte borough, deceased. The undersigned auditor, appointed by the Hon. Judges of said Court to pass upon the exceptions filed to the account of the executors of Harriet Linn, deceased, and if necessary, to re-state the account of said executors, to ascertain the amount, if any balance found remaining in the hands of said executors, including rents from real estate and to distribute such balance or balances, to and among those legally entitled to receive the same, will be at his office in Bellefonte, Pa., on Tuesday the 26th day of February, 1897, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the duties of his appointment when and where all parties in interest are requested to attend. J. W. ALEXANDER, Auditor.

ORPHAN'S COURT SALE. By virtue of an order of the Orphan's Court of Centre county, there will be exposed at public sale, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1897, at the Court House, in Bellefonte, Pa., at 1 o'clock p. m., the following property of Jacob Hoover, deceased, located in Union township above the line north of Unionville, known as the Jacob Hoover tract: Beginning at stones, thence by lands, now or late of John T. Hoover, south 62° west 75 perches to rock oak; thence by same south 45° west 75 perches to rock oak; thence south 75° west 31.5 perches to pin oak; thence north 75° east 35 perches to chestnut stump; thence by lands now or late of John Kowalski, south 85° east 100 perches to maple sprout; thence south 67° west 5 perches to a post dog wood; thence south 5 degrees west 60 perches to post; thence south 72° east 31.5 perches to white oak; thence south 53 degrees east 75 perches to post; thence by land now or late of William Brown, north 35° west 75 perches to stones; thence north 65° east 10 perches to stones; thence by lands now or late of Jacob Fink, north 87° west 125 perches to stones and place of beginning, containing 108 acres and 10 perches and allowance, excepting and reserving 12 acres and 10 perches net, granted and conveyed by Jacob Hoover unto James and George Flick, by deed dated June 17th, 1885, and recorded in Deeds Book No. 68, page 311. It being the same premises which Robert Valentine et al., and Ezra M. Thomas et al., executors of William A. Thomas, deceased, by deed dated March 18th, 1888, and March 21st, 1870, respectively, and recorded in Centre county in Deeds Book F, Vol. 2, pages 186 and 168, granted to Jacob Hoover, and which T. J. Dunkle, high sheriff of Centre county by deed dated April 24th, 1882, and intended to be forthwith recorded, granted and conveyed unto Jacob Hoover, now deceased.

Terms—Ten per cent. of purchase money on day of sale; balance one-third on confirmation absolute; one-third in one year from confirmation absolute; deferred payments absolute to bear interest from date of confirmation absolute at 6 per cent. per annum and to be secured by bond and mortgage on the premises. J. M. KEYS, S. K. ENERBERG, Attorneys, Bellefonte, Pa.

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