

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL

AND the county must pay the expense of the sheriff contest. Just as everybody expected.

OUR comments in last issue, in regard to who should pay the expense of the recent contest, was very favorably received on all sides.

IN relation to Cuban affairs Secretary Sherman and the President are to be commended for the interest they have shown for the protection of American citizens.

THE Williamsport Times, of Friday, does our townsman, Hon. James Schofield, the honor in designating him the leader of the democratic side in the state legislature.

ABRAHAM V. MILLER is said to be an applicant for the postoffice at State College. The republicans of the county should generally push his claim for this position.

GOV HASTINGS suggestions for the rebuilding of the state Capitol met with general favor. He wants a building erected that will embody the leading features of the one destroyed.

MORE tariff—more protection—more favoritism—more legislation for individuals—more private schemes—that is what the coming special sessions of congress will consider.

BECAUSE the Carnegie Company has been unable to sell steel rails to English railway companies at lower prices than they can be bought in England.

GOV. HASTINGS recently gave out a very sensible interview in which he states that he is not an aspirant for any appointment from the McKinley administration.

THERE is considerable animation among the aspirants for the Bellefonte postoffice. At present the various candidates are circulating their petitions.

WE are tired of confidence games, played by political buccoes. WANTED—a little more patience on the part of the people to season McKinley's "confidence" until his first installment of prosperity arrives.

WISE FORETHOUGHT.

Mark Hanna Takes Time by the Forelock—Does Not Look For Prosperity. The news that Mr. Mark A. Hanna, who heralded Mr. McKinley as the advance agent of prosperity, has forced the men employed in his mines at Pittsburg to sign a contract to work a year for 60 cents a ton is of considerable public importance.

Now, if any other employer except Mr. Hanna had compelled his men to sign a contract to accept the lowest rate of wages for the next 12 months, the fact would have been interesting, but it would have possessed no public importance.

The nomination was made accordingly, and when the campaign was under way Mr. Hanna declared that Mr. McKinley was "the advance agent of prosperity." All the orators and organs took it up and hailed the Ohio major as "the advance agent of prosperity."

Now, the question arises, and it is a very serious one, does Mr. Hanna believe that Mr. McKinley is really the advance agent of prosperity? Does he really think that the Republican party can restore prosperity? If so, it is indeed passing strange that he should bind workmen in his employ to accept starvation wages for 12 months.

There is but one reasonable inference to be drawn from Mr. Hanna's action in this matter. He knows that the Republican programme will not restore prosperity, and he is taking time by the forelock.

MARK HANNA AT THE BALL.

Last week I went to Washin'ton fer the 'nauguration ball. An' I danced fer Bill McKinley an' 'pertection' fer us all. But the dancin' wor a sorter of a high falutin' kind.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Defeat of the Legislative Commission Bill.

HAMILTON ROAD BILL POPULAR.

It is Believed the Measure Providing for Better Roads Will Pass—Provisions of the Excise Commission Bill—Opposition to a \$550,000 Capitol.

Harrisburg, March 16.—While it is true that one swallow does not make a summer, yet the committee of the senate appointed to investigate the capitol fire realize that one Swallow can give very considerable trouble if so disposed.

Dr. Swallow himself is quite reticent on the subject, but some of his friends claim that he is justifiable in his refusal to answer the questions propounded by this committee, on the grounds that he is to be tried for criminal libel in the courts of Dauphin county, and on that account should be exempt from giving evidence.

Another of the features of the week that provoked considerable discussion was the resolution to investigate the destitution in the Pittsburg coal mining district and its causes.

Among the many bills that have been offered since the opening of the session are a number that are recognized by the several committees as unconstitutional as they relate to the repeal of special acts, and there is some discussion whether after all the committees have not a right to report them, either negatively or affirmatively, to each house for their consideration.

The Hamilton bill limits the powers of supervisors to run a township in debt, restricting them to a 10 mill tax, and in case of a great emergency this tax may be increased to 20 mills.

A bill embracing many far reaching provisions, and which is known as the state excise commission bill, has recently been introduced. This is in addition to four others that are already pending in the house or senate for the appointment of commissioners composed of a few men who will take absolute control of certain industries or institutions.

These bills are said to be backed by the Quay people, although his friends have very little to say concerning them. It is claimed by the anti-Quay people that these commissions mean a great concentration of power; a condition of affairs the people of Pennsylvania cannot afford.

secretary at \$1,500 per year and such clerical force as may be necessary. Each city of the first and second class, in addition to this, is to have a deputy commissioner at a salary of \$2,000 per year, his office to be equipped with such clerical force as may be necessary.

It is claimed by the friends of this measure that the liquor laws are not enforced, and that it requires some such power as provided in this commission to give force and vitality to existing statutes.

To license Social Clubs. As a means of providing funds for the payment of the expenses of the office of excise commissioner a bill has been introduced in the senate which reduces every club of large or small distinction to the grade of common tavern, and in many respects this measure will make it more difficult to be a respectable club man than it does a saloon keeper.

Although the message of Governor Hastings on the construction of the new capitol building, in which he advises a separate structure at a cost of \$550,000, which would include a handsome main hall to be built on the colonial style of architecture, is meeting with some approval throughout the state, there is some opposition developing among the members, especially those who are interested in the passage of the act establishing a building commission.

Opposing a Cheap Capitol. In commenting on the message a few days ago a prominent member of the house committee remarked: "The proposition to erect a structure for half a million dollars verges on the ridiculous. If the limit had been fixed at \$1,500,000 the measure would be worthy of discussion. Then, too, I do not find an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the colonial style of architecture.

The committee on agriculture of the house is opposed to any change in the oleomargarine law, and the bill to license the manufacture of this product in Pennsylvania is receiving strenuous opposition.

The Civil Service Measure. The bill known as the civil service measure, entitled "an act to regulate the civil service of the commonwealth and of the cities thereof, of counties containing more than 150,000 inhabitants, and to provide penalties for its violation," which its friends claim was drawn in the interests of purity in politics, was the cause of a very spirited debate in the senate a few days ago.

A motion to amend it was defeated by the Quay people, which resulted in a very sharp debate between Senators Flinn and Grady. The fight raged for some time, when action was suspended that further consideration might be taken on another bill.

The investigation of the state treasury and auditor general's departments is about closed. This committee will recommend the passage of Stewart's interest bill as amended, exempting \$500,000 in each of the three active banks, and no doubt will urge more help for the auditor general's department.

It is also likely that a bill will be recommended taking away from all officers, excepting the auditor general, the right to draw warrants. This would make this official responsible, and he could compel the filing of vouchers for all expenditures in his office. This committee will likely have their report ready to submit to the legislature early in the week.

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