

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ ED. & PROP. CIRCULATION, OVER 1800. Telephone Call 1183.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Regular Price \$1.50 per year. If paid in ADVANCE \$1.00

EDITORIAL

The rush for appointments, under the new administration is said to be beyond all precedent.

JOHN WANAMAKER is prominently mentioned as a candidate for State Treasurer. He certainly is anxious to hold an office.

Thus far the Rev. Swallow has given the politicians at Harrisburg considerable annoyance and is not as easily trapped as was first supposed.

EX-SENATOR INGALLS is receiving rounds of abuse for attending the big prize fight last week, as a newspaper reporter. He was well paid for his services and like all mortals is after the dough.

The trouble over the Island of Crete will in all probability lead to a war between Turkey and Greece. Some men think that more complications may follow between the great powers.

FITZSIMMONS now wields a title that is a dandy. He affixes his royal signature thusly: "ROBERT FITZSIMMONS, Undeclared, Retired, Champion Middle-weight and Heavy-weight of all the Champions of the World."

The Mississippi river is on another rampage and the inhabitants on the low lands have suffered greatly from the great stream overleaping its banks. It is said to have passed its high water mark this time and the suffering, and loss of life will be very great.

The Rev. Swallow has been giving some very interesting testimony in those libel suits. Sufficient has been produced to show that a job is connected with most every state expenditure. The Rev. Swallow has done a public service by attracting attention to the methods of public appropriations.

WM. J. BRYAN'S new book is bringing him an income of \$400 per day. He also receives \$500 a night for his lectures. Running for president is evidently a good investment. It also shows that Bryan is able to retain his great popularity among the people and that his cause is not on the wane.

The announcement that Mr. Wm. P. Humes, of this town, was an applicant for the position of Commissioner of Railroads, was somewhat of a surprise to his many friends. But it is a fact nevertheless. We would be pleased to see our townsman thus honored and we think he could fill the position in a very creditable manner.

The state of Nevada has a population of only 45,761. Think of it, hardly as many inhabitants as Centre county and yet they elect a governor and send two men to the United States Senate and can have a prize fight whenever they feel like it. For politicians there is an advantage in living in such a two-by-four state.

SOME of the gold standard democrats are kicking terrible about the new tariff bill the republicans expect to push through. They might have expected that when they supported McKinley last fall. These chaps now should hire an able-bodied jackass to kick their posterior rotundity. They might acquire a bit of good sense in that way.

CONSIDERABLE opposition has been aroused to Gov. Hastings' recommendation for the restoration of the former capitol building. They seem to think that \$500,000 would not put up a respectable building and one that would meet the requirements. No doubt, there are legislators anxious to get a pull out of an extravagant appropriation.

The recent big prize fight has aroused general interest in the manly art and prize fighting will become the popular fad for some time. Even the little youngsters on their way to school have several fistic rounds daily and seem to admire the chap who can put up a good pair of fists. The interest shown in the big mill simply stimulates pugilism and prize fighting more than ever.

SOME interesting statistics as to the effects of tobacco have been published by Modern Medicine. They are taken from figures compiled by college physicians. For instance, at Yale in 1891, in a class of 147 students it was found that in four years the 77 who did not use tobacco surpassed the 70 who did use it to the extent of 10.4 per cent. in increase in weight, 24 per cent. in increase of height and 26.7 per cent. in increase of chest girth. In the same period at Amherst college it was found that the abstainers from tobacco gained 24 per cent. in weight, 37 per cent. in height and 42 per cent. in chest girth. But the most striking revelations from the statistics was that respecting lung capacity, the Amherst abstainers having gained 75 per cent. over the tobacco users, while at Yale the average gain was 77.5 per cent.

THE DINGLEY TARIFF.

Congress was convened in special session immediately after McKinley's inauguration for the purpose of framing a large protective tariff according to the ideas of the president. This measure will be known as the Dingley Tariff and is another bunch of favors and spoils for the manufacturers who contributed to the campaign fund. The trusts and combines must be cared for, as the progress of the bill indicates.

Czar Reed may lash the Dingley tariff bill through the house, without fair discussion or amendment, although the house, as "the people's forum," is the legislative body that should be allowed the largest liberty of debate; yet it is very evident the senate will tolerate no such taste. On both sides of the chamber there are experts, and Washington is thronged with tariff specialists. It is stated by well informed correspondents that the bill be thoroughly overhauled in the senate. It will take six weeks for the finance committee to prepare the bill for the consideration of the senate. It may take the senate two months to pass it.

There is no question the Dingley bill is arousing great antagonisms. This is generally the case with tariff bills, but the pending measure is catching it right and left. The Washington correspondent of the New York "Journal" in discussing the situation says:

The Republican leaders of the senate are against the Dingley bill as it now stands. They intend to cut down every schedule imposed by that measure. In so doing they put themselves in opposition to President McKinley. That does not matter. They intend to show the executive that he is not the legislative branch of the government. They do not mean to pass a measure, which, in its present form, threatens party disaster and defeat.

They intend to amend the bill so that the author himself will not recognize it when it is sent back to the house. Fault is found with the measure from beginning to end. Nearly every rate, they hold, is too high.

It is within the range of probability that the bill may have all its extreme protective taxes knocked out and reduced to a simple revenue measure, with the sugar revenue tax as essential feature. The republicans well remember the pit McKinley prepared for them in 1890.

President McKinley was elected last fall principally on the gold standard issue. The tariff was not the dominant issue. Protective tariffs are not in as high favor as formerly and the fate of this new measure will be somewhat uncertain. The public understand the tariff question better to-day than ever. The people object to being taxed for the benefit of private enterprises.

A TARIFF FOR ROBBERY.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad having recently ordered all its employees to provide themselves with watches of a certain grade and named certain American movements as satisfactory, retail jewelers of the Dominion are now advertising these movements for sale at a price far below that at which any American jeweler can buy them. The lowest net cash price of a B. W. Raymond Elgin movement to an American jeweler, for example, is \$13.16. The Canadian jeweler advertises it at retail for \$3.50, and this includes the Canadian tariff duty of 25 per cent., so that if he sells it at cost the Elgin factory prices to him could not have exceeded \$7.04.

Our protective duty of 25 per cent. has never been levied to protect the Watch Trust from cheap foreign watches, but to enable it to sell at a lower rate to foreigners than Americans; to protect it in skinning the American buyer by preventing watches sold to foreigners at low rates from being sent back to this country.

This robbery of the sixteen thousand American jewelers who sell the watches of the trust has been limited, it was supposed, to about 15 per cent., of the amount covered by the duty; but now their eyes have been opened to the fact that, so far as Canada is concerned, at least, it is about 40 per cent.

The new tariff proposes to raise the duty on watches to 40 per cent., not for revenue but to protect the American consumer 40 per cent more than it charges foreigners.

A GOOD WORK.

Williams J. Bryan's book—"The First Battle"—which has just been published, is being sold in our valleys by several agents, and we sincerely hope that all will secure a copy, as it is sold cheap. The book contains his biography written by Mrs. Bryan; all his most important speeches delivered in Congress and while on his famous campaign tour throughout the United States; the principal addresses and documents of the campaign of 1896; all of which is a faithful presentation of the rise and development of the silver movements. And it is also the best treatise on the money question of our country viewed as being governed not by monopoly but by democracy. It has the election returns, explanations and Bryan's address as to the duty of silver Democrats in the future. The book is finely illustrated and substantially bound. No advocate of silver and democracy can afford to be without it.

At the Methodist conference in Clearfield the mere mention of Dr. Swallow's name was the occasion for an applause. The Dr. may not be in high favor with republicans but his church stands by him on his crusade against public extravagance.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Measures Which Have Passed Both Houses.

FIGHT AGAINST THE POOL BILL

Should it Pass the Senate It Will Probably Meet Death in the House—A Record Breaking Session Probable. (Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, March 23.—The record of the legislature at this period of the session 743 bills introduced in both houses and 244 petitions presented praying for all sorts of legislation. Of the bills, introduced into the house 289 are out of committee and on the calendar, and 209 bills have reached the governor, and three of the house bills have been signed by him and become a law. One of these is known as house bill No. 12, which provides for the classification of real estate and other property for purposes of taxation and election of assessors in cities of second class for not more than five nor less than three assessors; also house bill No. 4, providing for the election of prothonotaries, recorders and registers and the manner of filling such offices in case of death or vacancy, and house bill No. 20, authorizing the burgess and town council of the borough of Sharsburg, Allegheny county, to levy a tax not exceeding 15 mills on the dollar on the assessed county valuation for the year. Among those now in the hands of the governor which have not been approved, as they but recently came into his hands, is an act authorizing the courts of quarter sessions to declare the seats of councilmen vacant when they fail to organize for ten days. A number of bills which have passed the house and senate have been sent to the governor this week.

There has been very considerable work done during the past week, and the majority of the bills on the calendar have been disposed of on second and third reading, and with the same industry expended during this week they will have a number of bills ready for the governor's consideration.

Fight Against the Pool Bill.

What is known as the pool bill, which was introduced in the senate some time ago and reported from committee, was pushed forward last week, so as to pass third reading by a vote of 29 to 12. It gives six months' license to the race track gamblers, to inaugurate a feature that, according to its opponents, is productive of more evil and do more to demoralize society than almost anything else that could be named. If it should pass the senate the house will, by a good majority, kill it. It is, they say, a bill that should be protested against by all good thinking people, to prevent, if possible, the inauguration of pool racing and other forms of gambling in Pennsylvania. Among the resolutions offered during the week was one asking for an investigation of the repairing of Grace church, the building now occupied by both branches of the legislature. In this resolution it was charged that the state paid for thousands of feet of lumber that was never used, and that in some instances the price charged for the lumber was \$55 per thousand, when it is claimed that the same lumber could be purchased at \$15 per thousand. Investigations have become so frequent and unpopular that the house decided to dispose of this case by referring it to the public buildings and grounds committee. This will be taken up during this week, and an effort made to ascertain if there has been any fraud perpetrated.

Among the features that have developed since my last letter in legislative circles were the introduction of three more reform bills in the house and senate. These prohibit city officials and corporations from interfering in politics, prevent political assessments and compel every man to pay his own taxes. The punishment in the political assessment bill is a fine of \$500 or one year in prison, and in that in relation to the payment of taxes for another person than the elector against whom the tax has been assessed the punishment is a fine of \$500 or six months' imprisonment.

The civil service reform bill, which applies only to the counties of Philadelphia, Allegheny, Schuylkill and Luzerne, passed the senate within the past few days. This bill will meet with considerable opposition in the house, as it is denounced by those who are opposed to it as unjust and unfair, and capable of being manipulated by the bosses.

The house bill authorizing the superintendent of public instruction to furnish every school in Pennsylvania with a copy of Snell's Legislative Handbook, after a spirited debate, passed finally by a vote of 108 to 55.

The Amended Capitol Bill.

The house bill providing that the material used in the construction of the proposed capitol building shall be furnished by Pennsylvania firms and corporations, and that none but citizens of Pennsylvania be employed in the construction of the building, was amended by striking out the word "Pennsylvania," and substituting in its stead "United States," and will now no doubt pass both houses in its present form. In the discussion of this measure the opposition to Governor Hastings' plan to construct a new capitol building at a cost of \$550,000 took advantage of this occasion to denounce the absurdity of his estimate. There seems to be a disposition to prolong the settlement of the construction of a new capitol building, although a resolution was offered recently to that effect. Something should be done very soon to pass a bill designating the kind of a capitol to be built, and the cost, so as to have it completed and ready for use by the next legislature.

Among the bills that passed the house finally was one for the protection of public school houses and other buildings used and occupied for public school purposes, outbuildings thereof and public property; authorizing courts of common pleas to direct and decree the sale of real estate of insolvent debtors by their assignees for the payment of debt and the discharge by such sales of the right of doer by which such real estate is or may be charged or encumbered; to prevent the adulteration of vinegar; endowing the trustees of hospitals

and asylums under the control of the commonwealth with corporate powers. The bill introduced to legalize the state board of agriculture, out of existence met with overwhelming defeat in the house. It was contended by the very few friends of the measure that as the state had a department of agriculture a state board was unnecessary. Among the bills which passed finally in the senate recently were: Preventing employers of labor from discriminating against any employees because they are members of any labor unions; preventing fraud in the sale of transoceanic passage receipts, orders or tickets, and for other purposes; providing for the payment of mileage to poor directors; authorizing the cities of the commonwealth to purchase, acquire, take, use and appropriate private properties for public park purposes extending for a further period of five years the time during which corporations incorporated and existing under the laws of any other state are authorized to hold real estate heretofore purchased at sheriff's or other judicial sales; to provide for the payment of costs of prosecutions in misdemeanors and surety of the peace cases by the person or persons on whom such costs may be imposed, and to provide for the punishment of such person and the payment of such costs in default; to equalize the levy and collection of assessments for local improvements in boroughs and cities of the state, except in first class cities; creating the office of county solicitor in counties having a population of 150,000; to provide that one burial permit shall be sufficient for interment in any cemetery or burial ground located within the county in which said permit is issued; increasing the number of common pleas courts in Philadelphia by the addition of another court, to be called common pleas court No. 5.

Dr. Swallow Willing to Meet Charges. The senate determined to cause the arrest of Dr. Swallow and bring him before the bar of the senate for alleged contempt in refusing to give information respecting the capitol case, and arranged for a special meeting for his hearing, but the sergeant-at-arms, in whose hands Lieutenant Governor Lyons placed the warrant for his arrest, reported that he had failed to find his man. Dr. Swallow called on the lieutenant governor, however, the same evening and said that he was not seeking to avoid arrest, and would be on hand whenever it was found desirable. He has deferred his hearing, however, until the 23rd of the month, but inasmuch as the trial of Dr. Swallow is now going on, it is doubtful if they will require him to leave the court until his trial is over.

The bill to create a state board of horseshoe examiners, which was defeated a few days ago, was brought up again for reconsideration and was considered. A very lively debate followed. A number of speeches were made in opposition, and it was claimed it would increase the price of horseshoeing, and that now was no time to increase the expenses of farmers. The bill was indefinitely postponed. It is very doubtful if this bill is again resurrected during this session.

A large delegation of the fish and game committee of the senate and house, and of the state fish commission, made an official inspection of the Allentown hatching station a few days ago. The purpose of this inspection was in order that the members of the legislature might have a more intelligent idea of the trust work of the commissioners, and to ascertain the need for extending the capacity of the hatching houses, and of the expediency of purchasing the property, or in lieu of that, another. The visiting members expressed themselves as very greatly pleased at the character of the work being done, and unanimously decided that it was absolutely necessary that the state should either purchase the property now held under lease or, failing to agree with the owners on a reasonable price, to locate elsewhere, and erect large hatching houses. The dilapidated character of the hatching houses made prompt action necessary.

Proposal to Tax Bicycles. Among the bills to be introduced within the past few days was one to put a tax on each bicycle in the state, of course excepting those in the hands of dealers or manufacturers, of one dollar per annum, to be paid into the state treasury for the improvement of roads in the state. It is believed by the friends of this bill that very considerable revenue can be derived from this law, which will greatly assist in the inauguration of great improvements to the public roads of the state. Senate bill No. 9, which provides for an improvement of the public roads of the state, has been reported from committee, and will no doubt pass the senate soon.

In order to relieve the country districts from double registration a bill has been introduced to amend the constitution so as to enable the legislature to pass the civil registration for city and country districts.

The bill providing for the printing, making and compiling of a war text book history, under the supervision of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to be used in the public schools of this commonwealth, and making an appropriation therefor of \$5,000, is to be framed by a "war text commission," to be composed of ten of the leading Grand Army men of the state.

The bill to reduce the salaries of mining inspectors of the anthracite coal regions from \$3,000 per annum to \$2,000 was the occasion of a very lively debate, but the house agreed to the bill on second reading. This will put the mine inspectors in the bituminous regions on an equality with those in the anthracite districts.

Another bill that has some assurance of becoming a law, at least as far as the house is concerned, is the amendment to the fee bill of 1893. This provides for the fees charged by constables, while the fish and game commission bill, which passed the house finally, and the bill providing for a state forestry reservation also have very fair prospects of becoming laws, as well as the measure making it a misdemeanor to insure, to aid or solicit the insurance of the life of any person non compos mentis or under the age of 16 years.

It is pretty generally admitted that this will be the longest session of the Pennsylvania legislature in many years. The members are now beginning to realize, and if developments continue as they have in the past few weeks it will be the middle of July before all the work is done.

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