

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ - ED. & PROP

CIRCULATION, OVER 1800.

Telephone Call 183.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Regular Price \$1.50 per year. If paid in ADVANCE \$1.00

EDITORIAL

THE way Ohio voted last week, they do not approve of the tariff on wool.

THE price of wheat has gone down again. That is bad news for the farmer.

THE price on all woolen goods is advancing. The Dingley bill will be responsible for all of it.

DR. SWALLOW is prominently mentioned as a reform candidate for State Treasurer. That might be a popular move.

SINCE the Advance Agent of Prosperity has been in office wheat has been gradually dropping in price. It is well to keep these facts in mind.

CORBETT is following Fitzsimmons constantly and annoying him for another contest. If Corbett would get another trouncing it would be well deserved.

THE recent elections have caused great consternation among republican leaders and politicians. They can't quite get their bearings. The handwriting on the wall is plain to most people.

SWALLOW continues to make things exceedingly uncomfortable for the administration. He is full of fight and ammunition. Dr. Swallow, thus far, has done a good work. The public owe him a debt of gratitude.

THE republicans are more than alarmed over the result of the recent elections in the West. The unrest among the laboring classes due to suffering and want explains all. The campaign pledges have not materialized.

GOV. HASTING's plan to re-build the capitol has been adopted. This was one of the best things done by the Gov. and the people over the state are strongly endorsing his course. It was a decided check on contractors and hoodlums.

LAST fall republicans attributed the rise in the price of wheat to the election of McKinley. What will they say now since it has been dropping gradually in price and ere long, it is predicted, will be down to the sixties. Surely free silver and free trade did not cause it.

A. L. BALZER, of Philipsburg, wants to be sent from this county as delegate to the republican state convention and has announced his desire. A fight is on now between Quay and Wananaker factions, and it would be in order for him to state as to which gang he is training with.

NEW JERSEY stepped into line on Tuesday by showing large democratic gains in every part of the state. This follows the story from the western states, of last week, and indicates that there is trouble brewing for the republicans. The tide is turning. Prosperity fakes don't work.

THE other day the Hon. W. J. Bryan accidentally fell from a balcony while addressing an audience at St. Augustine and was picked up in an unconscious condition. The accident was caused by the great throng that gathered about him. There is something remarkable how this man retains his popularity. The man and his cause are the two great features.

A FIRST-CLASS navy is rather an expensive luxury. England will spend this year in her naval establishment \$175,000,000. During the year 108 vessels will be under construction. Sixty-six of these vessels will be completed during the present financial year. All the fleets kept in foreign waters are being strengthened by substituting new vessels for old ones of inferior size. The new ships call for more men, and next year there will be over 100,000 men in the British naval service.

THE attorney general of the state says that Rev. S. C. Swallow has no right to have experts make an examination of the burned capitol buildings, as the reverend gentleman requested. This opinion may be all right from the standpoint from which the official giving it views it, but the people, who have a right to know, would be better satisfied if there were a disposition shown to give Mr. Swallow all the opportunities he wanted to make his examinations. The effort of the state officials to balk Mr. Swallow from substantiating his statements, whether true or false, is not in keeping with the governor's assertion that he was in favor of free and searching investigation. If Mr. Swallow's charges are without foundation, he certainly could not find nothing to prove his statements in making these examinations; if they are based on actual facts, then the course of the state officials cannot help but create the suspicion that they are afraid to give their accuser the opportunities he asks for.

Everybody is talking about the handsome shirts and beautiful neckwear at the Philadelphia Branch.

GOLD UP AND WHEAT DOWN.

Just preceding the presidential election there was a great boom in wheat, part of it made to order by a syndicate of political speculators and part due to famine conditions in India. It had considerable effect on the election. "Dollar wheat," was promised the western voters. It was figured out on the stump and through newspapers that hundreds of millions had already been realized by farmers, while the facts were that the profits by the advance in wheat for the most part went to speculators. Farmers, however, were assured they would have their innings this year by an advance at their barn doors. This antielection wheat boom, it was also proclaimed, settled the question that there was no connection between the demoralization of silver and the low price of agricultural products.

With the election of Mr. McKinley and his inauguration the boom in wheat exploded, showing its political character. Last fall, before the voting, wheat was 85 cents. It is now down to 65 cents, a fall of 20 cents a bushel. The present price is about 10 cents a bushel higher than the lowest figures of last year. That represents a legitimate advance because of scarcity abroad.

It is noteworthy that with the low and declining price of wheat a marked advance in the price of gold is noted. Russia and Japan are bidding against each other for gold. They were bidding 77 shillings 10 1/2 pence a few days ago; later the report was, "gold in strong demand at 77 shillings 11 1/2 pence, with practically no supplies." But at the same time the Bank of England reduced its rate of discount to 2 1/2 per cent. Here we have an active outside demand for gold, with a dullness in trade conditions, shown by the reduced bank rate.

The increased demand for gold makes the American condition less comfortable. It tends to depress the prices of our products, for when the financial papers announce, as they are now doing, that gold is going up, it simply means that other things are going down—that the purchasing value of gold is increasing. This is illustrated by the fall in wheat and everything else.

We need not enforce the lesson of these two coincident events—wheat going down and gold going up. To the thoughtful they carry their own story of cause and effect.—Post.

Holy Week and Lent.

From the very first it is probably that the anniversary of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was observed as specially significant by the Christian church. The fact of His rising was the supremely important feature in the preaching of all the apostles and evangelists. That was the cornerstone on which all doctrine rested. Soon the whole week preceding the anniversary of the resurrection came to be observed with special ceremonies commemorative of the Lord's sufferings and the events in the last week of his life preceding the crucifixion.

Before long the forty days before Easter were dedicated to fasting and prayer and humiliation of heart by the church as appropriate preparation for the sacred festival. This largely continues to the present time in great branches of the church.

Some Protestant denominations have purposely omitted all unusual services at this season as a protest against the abuses allowed in some divisions of the church. A better way is coming to be recognized, and the celebration of Easter and Holy week and some parts of Lent, with extra and special observances, is quite common in churches of all denominations.

The most gorgeous ceremonials of a religious nature anywhere to be seen in the world at the present time are probably witnessed during Holy week and Easter in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, at Jerusalem, and St. Peter's in Rome.

Claim an Illustrious Ancestor.

After two months' race across the country and through many cities in pursuit of her demented husband, Mrs. G. W. Allen, of South Chicago, Ill., came up with the runaway at the post office at Williamsport Saturday. Allen, who is an ex-United States detective, since leaving home has been in nearly every state in the union east of the Mississippi. Saturday morning when Allen called at the post office he was detained until Mrs. Allen was summoned from a hotel near by. When Mrs. Allen spoke to her husband he said his mind had been a blank since leaving home. Of the \$700 he had when he departed there is not a dollar left. Mrs. Allen spent \$500 in her chase. Allen is a direct descendant of the famous Ethan Allen, colonel of the "Green Mountain Boys."

The One Thing Needful.

There is a great talk at all of the institutes and farmers' meetings about educating the farmer in the arts and sciences. Education in these lines is not to be despised, but a greater need of the farmer at this time is education in business principles and business methods, and to have his eyes trained to see values in little things.

He needs, too, to have more confidence in his neighbors and others of his own calling, and less faith in the promises of agents; trust more in those with whom he comes in contact, and less to those whom he knows only from their letters.

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Mr. Nesbit Reiterates His Charges of Irregularities

IN AWARDING STATE CONTRACTS.

Provisions of the Anti-Trust Bill Which Has Passed the House and Now Awaits Action in the Senate. The New Capitol Building.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, April 13.—Representative Nesbit, of Northumberland county, still charges there are irregularities in the manner of giving out state contracts. He has filed with the house committee on public buildings and grounds a seven page statement setting forth alleged abuses in the administration of the department of public buildings and grounds. Among the charges made are that plans and specifications for the erection or for the revision of public buildings during recent years have been so written as to greatly limit the opportunity of responsible contractors to compete in the building, resulting in great loss to the state. In the erection of the new executive building, and remodeling of the old house, specifications were so drawn by the architect as to require all bidders to furnish certain articles of special manufacture at certain prices, and largely in excess of the proper cost of said article. It is also charged in this statement that plans and specifications have been so padded with items aggregating a large amount, and which were not intended to be exacted of the contractor. Yet it is claimed that honest bidders were compelled to bid on these. In the remodeling of the old hall of the house a large amount of basement excavations and underpinning called for in the specifications were omitted. Favorite contractors were given to understand that this work could be omitted, and they thus bid accordingly.

To illustrate the carelessness which has characterized the state's scrutiny and inspection of bills which have been presented by favorite contractors for materials and workmanship furnished to the state Mr. Nesbit points to the character and quality of the material in the new executive building, apparent, he claims, to the most casual inspection, and to the admitted facts that the building, although but three years completed, already needs a new roof.

Mr. Nesbit is anxious for an honest investigation to be made, and claims this will establish the fact that many persons who desire to bid on public contracts are deterred from so doing because of the reasons indicated. He also thinks an investigation is important, inasmuch as the state is upon the eve of erecting a new state capitol building, involving the outlay of a large amount of money and the giving out of numerous contracts; "that the public interests and public honor require that all honest contractors desiring to bid on such contracts should have fair and equal opportunity to bid and just and equitable treatment afterward."

The Anti-Trust Bill. Perhaps one of the most comprehensive and important measures ever enacted by any legislative body in the history of this country passed the house recently by a vote of 157 to 4. This is what is known as the anti-trust bill, and is said to be a copy of the famous Georgia anti-trust bill. It provides that "all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts or combines, between persons or corporations, made with a view to lessen, or which tend to lessen, full and free competition in any line of trade or business throughout the state, whether in the importation or sale or in the manufacture and sale of articles of domestic production or of domestic raw material, and all arrangements designed to restrain trade or which tend to advance, reduce or control the price or the cost to the producer, or to the consumer, of any such product or article of trade, are hereby declared against public policy, unlawful and void, except in the case of labor organizations." Corporations, chartered by the state violating any of the provisions of this act forfeit their charter and corporate existence, and foreign corporations violating the same are prohibited from doing business in this state. It is made the duty of the attorney general to enforce the law.

Violations of the provisions of this act are declared to be destructive of free competition and a conspiracy against the public interest. Any person or persons engaging in any such conspiracy as principal, manager, dictator or agent, or in any other capacity, and who shall knowingly carry out any orders in furtherance of said conspiracy, shall on conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and imprisonment in the penitentiary not exceeding three years. It is a duty incumbent upon the district attorney, upon the complaint of any citizen, to proceed in his official capacity to secure the indictment of persons or corporations infringing on the act.

This bill is not likely to meet with much favor in the senate, as there is a strong sentiment developing against it. Its passage through the senate will be watched with more than usual interest. In view of its passing the house by an almost unanimous vote. Those who oppose the bill becoming a law base their objections on the grounds that the remedy provided for the evils intended to be corrected is prohibition, not regulation, and because its terms are so broad and comprehensive that they could be held to apply and make unlawful the co-operative stores, partnerships, agreements between employers and their salesmen in reference to prices; in fact it is difficult to see, they claim, how any two or more persons could act together in any line of business without making a combination tending to affect the price or cost of a product, and not come within the prohibitive terms of the bill. It is also alleged that no evidence in the form of a petition or a report will be presented to the house showing either the need for this bill or its effectiveness to remedy some of the undoubted evils incident to great combinations of capital.

To Push the New Capito. At last the measure providing for the erection of a new capitol building has taken shape and passed the senate prior to their last adjournment. This bill provides for the erection of a new

state capitol building on or near the site of the old building at a cost of \$50,000, and no doubt with a few amendments will speedily pass the house, and the governor proposes to attach his signature soon after it comes into his hands. It is his intention to have a beginning made toward the erection of a new state capitol very soon. An effort will no doubt be made in the house to increase the number of members of the commission by adding two from the house, but it is very doubtful whether the temper of the body will suffer this to be done. The house recognizes no man as master, and a spirit of great independence is a very marked characteristic. One of the elements that give strength to this influence comes from the Democratic members, who stand in solid phalanx and throw their weight to one side or the other as they are satisfied as to the value of the measures to be enacted. The other factions find it necessary to secure their influence, and they have to have some regard for the minority. It is doubtful whether the house of representatives of this commonwealth was ever in better trim to secure for the people wise and judicious legislation than the present one. This is becoming more noticeable each week. It would be well if the senate were similarly balanced. Too much smoothness characterizes this body, and they are accredited with passing about every measure that comes before them.

Another bill to pass the senate within the past few days was the Hamilton road bill, or senate bill No. 9, by a vote of 41 to 6. This bill is growing in popularity, and will pass the house with a good sized majority. There seems to be a strong sentiment developing in its favor in many of the country districts.

Electric railway legislation is now receiving some attention. Two measures in the interests of such enterprises were favorably reported out of the committee on passenger railways. The one authorizes electric and other railroads not operated by steam to carry freight, while the other practically gives the electric railways the right of eminent domain. The object of these measures is to avoid the influences of the supreme court decision, which has been an obstacle to the extension of electric roads into the country around Philadelphia.

The reform legislation that was promised in the beginning does not seem to be in a very healthy condition, as the bills already introduced in reference to this are not regarded with special favor. Some of the members who were thought to be friends of these measures do not take kindly to them. Unless there is a decided change in the sentiment of the house there are none of the reform measures likely to become laws.

Opposing an Excise Bill. Although a meeting was held in the chamber of the house of representatives in the interests of the excise commission bill, and a number of able attorneys spoke in behalf of this measure, their efforts seem to avail but little. The provisions of this bill authorize the establishment of a commission composed of attorneys, or persons learned in the law, whose duties would be to pass upon all bills as to their legal form and constitutionality before they are introduced in either house. It is feared that were this bill to become a law there might a spirit of favoritism develop, and in that event only certain measures be permitted to go before either house. It is also objected to on the ground that it tends to increase the number of the officials of the state, and thus add to the expenses.

Although several apportionment bills have been introduced, it is extremely doubtful whether there is any legislation effected in this respect during this session at least. The difficulty is to frame bills that would satisfy the majority, as in order to make a fair apportionment some counties would necessarily have a reduced representation, and this would incur great opposition from such districts.

The senate fire investigating committee is still wrangling with Dr. Swallow, who seems now to be in a defiant mood, and rather disposed to choose his own time to furnish the evidence he is alleged to have in reference to the burning of the capitol. In an open letter to Governor Hastings, State Treasurer Haywood and Auditor General Mylin, members of the public buildings and grounds commission, regarding their referring his request for permission for himself and others to examine the ruins of the old capitol building to the attorney general for his decision, he charges childish tactics, and criticizes them very strongly. But the time has come when the doctor must obey the tribunal before which he is cited to appear, as they have a right to know of any knowledge or testimony he or his friends have to offer, and he will not gain anything by withholding his information longer.

Little Evidence Against Agent Moore. The legislative committee investigating the charges against Pure Food Agent P. N. Moore have succeeded in getting but little evidence in relation to the charges made against him thus far.

The following statistics, as taken from the books of the transcribing clerks, show the progress of legislation in both the senate and house: House bills read in place, 92; house bills reported from committee, 461; senate bills read in place in the senate, 408; senate bills reported from house committee, 61; senate bills reported from house, 80; house bills passed and in the senate, 79; house bills in the governor's hands, 12; approved, 9; recalled, 2; senate bills passed in the house, 3.

These bills passed the house finally within the past few days: Requiring constables to make returns to court only when they have violations of law to report, except where otherwise provided for by rule of court; authorizing boroughs to make appropriations to establish and maintain free public libraries; to provide for levying school and school building taxes on the city valuation in third class cities, where the school district comprises the same territory as the city; validating conveyances and instruments of writings executed by attorneys in fact; supplement to the act of May 23, 1889, to provide for the assessment and collection of special taxes upon properties abutting for street sprinkling and street cleaning.

June 20, it is thought, will be the date of final adjournment, and an effort is being made to have all the business finished by that time.

\$3,400.00 CASH AND GIVEN FREE EACH MONTH FOR Sunlight SOAP WRAPPERS. As follows: 4 First Prizes, each of \$100 Cash - \$400.00. 20 Second " " " \$100.00 Bicycles - 2,000.00. 40 Third " " " \$25.00 Gold Watches - 1,000.00. Total given during 12 mos. 1897, \$40,800.00.

HOW TO OBTAIN THEM. Competitors to save as many SUNLIGHT SOAP Wrappers as they can collect. Cut off 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 (light blue cover) with NUMBER OF THE DISTRICT Competitor lives in.

THE LEADING Wall Paper Store. All agree that our new wall papers are the handsomest they ever saw. This is strong praise, but the facts fully justify it. The art of wall-paper designing is always progressing and we progress with it. Artists of distinguished ability are putting forth their best efforts in this direction. The quality of paper, too, was never finer than now, and our prices, 4 cents to \$1.50 cents a roll, are special, and remember that you have 10560 different patterns to pick from. Call and see us. S. H. WILLIAMS, HIGH STREET, BELLEFONTE, - - PA.

THE LATEST STYLES. You will always find the latest and newest things here in. CLOTHING. Hats, Neckwear and everything in our line. Just received our new "GUYER" Hats, also the "DUNLAP" and many other shapes. Bright new things in Neckwear. The Clothing line contains all the latest Spring NOVELTIES in Suits, Overcoats in the Covert Style, and swellest cut in Trousers. Ask to see the new fad in Negligee Shirts. Our TAILORING DEPARTMENT is filled with all the newest and best Suitings and Trouserings. MONTGOMERY & CO., ALLEGHENY STREET, BELLEFONTE, PENN'A.