

The Centre Democrat.

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

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EDITORIAL

The Bellefonte post office has been the cause for one black eye. More may follow.

It looks as though the Hamilton road bill will be passed and signed by the governor. Good roads are wanted but it takes time and money to secure them.

Should the price of wheat advance on account of a war abroad, our republican friends would not hesitate to give all the credit to the Advance Agent of Prosperity.

The passenger traffic over the five railroads that center here has been lighter this year than it was for the same months in 1896, but the freight over them for the same time this year has increased one-third more than it was for the same time last year.

WAR news from Cuba are of little importance since the Greek and Turk are exchanging shot and shell. The Spaniards have taken a portion of their forces home claiming that the insurrection is practically suppressed. The Cubans are still strongly fortified and as defiant as ever.

The opening of hostilities, genuine war between Greece and Turkey is something to be deplored. War at its best is an evil. But one good can result to us and that is the creation of a market for grain and other necessities. It is likely that the price of wheat will advance in consequence.

MESSRS. Hugh S. Taylor and Boyd A. Musser, chairman and secretary of the Democratic county committee, attended the meeting of the State Democratic Committee, at Harrisburg, on Tuesday. Both are active young democrats and can well represent the interest of the party in that body.

It matters not to the public what may be the final disposition of the prosecutions instituted against Dr. Swallow. One thing is certain, the Dr. has satisfied the public mind of the gross corruption that exists in official and political circles at Harrisburg. State funds are misappropriated in many ways for the benefit of the political heeled who are in power and it is not necessary to have a verdict to satisfy the public. Dr. Swallow has done a good work.

A COMMUNICATION, in another column of this issue, from a mechanic, in the car shops at Altoona, is enough to point out to the people how the toiling masses over the country are faring under the gold standard and McKinley prosperity. Here is a condition and not a theory. A condition that can not be explained away. There are thousands over this broad land in exactly the same unfortunate plight. They now realize that they were duped by false promises last fall.

WHEN McKinley's inauguration occurred no funds were available to send the National Guard from this state to participate in the great demonstration. Since then it has been decided to send a large portion to New York city to attend the dedication of Grant's tomb and on the 15th of May the entire guard will go to Philadelphia to attend the unveiling of the Washington Monument. The fact that McKinley has nothing to do with these events may explain Gov. Hastings position fully.

It is amusing to note all the crazy legislation that is offered the legislature at each session and the present body is no exception. Almost every member has a pocket full of bills to offer, more for the purpose of impressing his constituents than he is the author of something than to accomplish some good. A legislator can render more service by watching such matter, than attempt to originate anything. Too much legislation is an evil. We have too many complicated and useless Acts of Assembly on the state books now.

THE Senate is still struggling with the tariff bill, one of the highest and most unreasonable measures of the kind. The fundamental principle of this measure is to tax the public into prosperity. This high rates will reduce importations, restrict commercial exchanges with other nations and give the home manufacturers a monopoly and the masses will suffer—must pay the expense in the end. This is McKinleyism and many people favor it, not realizing the harm they are doing to themselves. It takes experience, and long years to learn simple lessons.

SEED DISTRIBUTION.

The Clearfield Republican says: "We learn from a reliable source that Congressman Arnold is making his seed distribution through the republican hotel keepers. If you have not yet received your seeds you should apply to the nearest republican hotel keeper at once. It may be a little inconvenient to farmers and other temperance cranks, but the machine must be supported and built up."

HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Passage of the Walton Bill Gives a Chance to Architects.

INTEREST ON STATE DEPOSITS.

The Bill Which Has Passed the House to That End Is Held Up in the Senate—Farmers Support the Hamilton Road Bill.

(Special Correspondence.) Harrisburg, April 20.—The passage of the Walton capitol bill in the house, by a vote of 149 to 39, was the chief feature of the last session. This measure was pretty thoroughly discussed and various amendments offered before it was permitted to become a law. Among the changes suggested was one to limit the total cost to \$1,000,000; another to allow four weeks instead of two in which to bid on plans for the new structure, and still another to provide for a light and heat plant. The temper of the house, however, was against any change, and the bill as originally framed went through. It has since been approved by the governor, and is now a law.

Recognizing the necessity for haste in the matter of perfecting plans for the new structure, the new capitol building commission met Professor Laird, the architectural adviser of the body, a few days ago, and went over the preliminaries of the building operations. It is their ambition to secure the best results it is possible to accomplish, in order that the building to be erected may be in keeping with the requirements of the state in every way, and in point of architecture be a credit to Pennsylvania. Every safeguard is being provided for to secure the rights of competitors at every point, and it is thought that competition will be made attractive to all the best architects. The commissioners seem desirous of offering to the architectural profession such conditions as will bring into competition architects of the highest standing, and in this way secure to the state the best possible service in a fair and equitable competition. A program will be issued in pamphlet form, which will set forth the terms on which the competition is to be conducted, and all architects who so desire may file their requests for information, concerning the competition with State Treasurer B. J. Haywood, secretary of the commission, at Harrisburg. This will specify in detail the requirements of the various state departments and the general conditions that may influence or govern the investigation of the problem. Stipulations will also be contained concerning the manner of judging the drawings, the scale and manner of rendering, and the time and place at which they are to be delivered.

An Opportunity for Architects. Provisions are made that drawings submitted in competition are to be passed upon by a board of disinterested experts. These will select a limited number of the best designs, and then the architect will be appointed by the commissioners. The identity of the competitor will not be taken into account in passing judgment on the various designs, and it will be made a special feature to insure results upon the merits of the designs in competition. This program will also contain a map of the grounds, showing the different structures as they are located, various views of the hill and its buildings, and in this way furnish competitors with all the information necessary to a thorough understanding of the problem.

As the extreme urgency requires an early beginning of the work of erection, it is decided that the drawings to be offered in competition are to be received not later than July 11, and no extension of time whatever will be allowed. The unprejudiced competition seems to have awakened a spirit of great ambition among the different architects to compete for the prize which they consider awaits the successful competitor. The great importance of the state of Pennsylvania will be a mark of special distinction to the member of the profession who is successful in having his design adopted. There is, as well, very considerable interest developing among the prominent builders of the country who propose to compete in the bids for the construction of the new building. Many of the largest contractors have visited the ruins, and have been getting all the information it is possible to obtain.

The libel bill which was prepared by the Pennsylvania Editorial Association, defeated some time ago and subsequently reconsidered, was called up a few days ago and a series of amendments presented which practically makes a new bill and eliminates the most objectionable features. The bill as amended passed second reading. In its present shape it provides that in all criminal prosecutions for libel the truth may be given in evidence to the jury, and if it shall appear that the matter charged as libelous is substantially true, and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the defendant shall be acquitted, and the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts. It also provides that in no case can the defendant in any prosecution for libel be indicted for the printing or publication of the same libel by the same individual in more than one county in the state, and in trials of indictment for libel the commonwealth shall be at liberty to stand aside jurors. The title has been changed to read, "An act relating to criminal libel."

Farmers Urge Hamilton Road Bill. One of the remarkable features of the session is the rapid change of sentiment among the farmers, who have heretofore been opposed to the Hamilton road bill. Many letters are now coming to members from this class urging their representatives to vote for the measure, for they now recognize this as at least one step in the right direction, and will ultimately result in great benefit to all parts of this commonwealth.

In conjunction with the Hamilton road bill there has been one prepared to repeal the various road laws of the state, as the constitution requires, and it is a curiosity. It is without doubt the largest bill that was ever offered to any legislative body. There are mentioned in it over 200 road laws that are active and in effect. It makes a volume of 276 pages, and is so voluminous that a number of members concluded to put it into a separate place on their desks. This bill has a strong argument in favor of the passage of that prepared by Hamilton, as it shows the crude, peculiar and unsatisfactory laws now upon the statute books in relation to road improvement.

Despite the fact that both houses concurred in an agreement to forbid the introduction of any new bills after April 5, except by consent of either branch, a number are still being offered. These are not likely to receive consideration in either house. The house has now on its calendars more than it is able to dispose of until late in June or July, and a session of that length is not probable, as a very strong sentiment is developing for adjournment as soon as possible. Among the bills introduced recently was one to prevent parents or guardians from locking up children under 9 years of age under any pretext, and providing a penalty of \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and six months' imprisonment for the third offense. If any child or children should lose their lives by being locked up the punishment shall be one year's imprisonment and \$100 fine; authorizing county commissioners to transfer and convert into the general fund of their respective counties any money now placed to the credit of any township upon any duplicate for taxes where the same has remained uncalled for during a period of ten years, providing the right to the same is not in litigation or a matter of dispute. The Spatz bill authorizing a tax of \$1 on each bicycle is not likely to have many friends, unless it is amended to include various vehicles. It would be both unjust and unconstitutional to enact a measure of this kind without extending it to embrace all vehicles. Apportionment Sentiment Growing. Strange to say, a sentiment is developing in favor of apportionment, or to the bill to effect this, and as introduced by Mr. Patterson, of Blair. It is becoming recognized at present that after all there is more to be gained by the passage of a law effecting a new apportionment during this session than to wait until after the next census. Many are realizing that some districts in the state are increasing in population very little, while in others the increase is very great, and the next census will occasion very many surprises in this connection. The basis of increase of 25% per cent between 1880 and 1890, if the apportionment is deferred until after the census is taken, will not be realized in a number of districts, and it is thought that such districts will be better off to have the apportionment at present than to defer it. By the provisions of this bill the number of members of both houses is reduced to 200 in all.

These bills received favorable consideration recently: Requiring street railway companies to inclose the front and rear platforms of their cars during the winter months; requiring school directors or controllers to allow school children to have the use of the books furnished them by the board any time during the vacation between school terms, and providing that a teacher of such schools shall possess a valid certificate issued by the superintendent of schools; amending the act of May 8, 1854, to allow school directors or controllers to levy a special tax, not exceeding the amount of the annual tax nor oftener than once a year, to be applied for the purchase of grounds and the erection and furnishing of buildings; senate bill regulating the employment and providing for the health and safety of persons employed in sweatshops; senate bill authorizing school directors or controllers to establish and maintain out of the public school treasury free kindergartens for children between 3 and 6 years of age residing in the district; authorizing county commissioners to accept as a county bridge any bridge over any stream or river running into or through any county; authorizing suits at law by either party that may be dissatisfied with the decisions of the board in regard to granting warrants for vacant lands; to provide for the protection of health of domestic animals; providing for the collection of amounts due the state for purchase money, interest and fees due on unpatented lands; senate bill to continue in full the act of May 18, 1892, to extend the time which corporations may hold and convey the title to real estate heretofore bought under execution or conveyed to them in satisfaction of debts and now remaining in their hands unsold. For Establishing Poor Farms. Of the bills introduced and on the calendar that are of special importance, and are likely to be disposed of during the session, is senate bill No. 183, which was read in place in the senate March 19, and has since passed finally in the upper house. This is now in the judiciary general committee of the house. It provides for the court taking action on the establishment of a poor farm in any of the counties not having such institutions on a petition of a majority of the overseers of the poor, instead of a two-thirds vote, as now required. Several bills have been offered for the enactment of laws for the establishment of poor farms, and of those introduced the senate bill referred to is likely to be the most popular, since it is very short and plain in its construction. The Gould bill, as prepared by the Poor Directors' association, embodies some very good features, but is so long and comprehensive in its scope that there is a fear expressed that its enactment might interfere with the poor farms now established. The temper of the house is very averse to omnibus bills, or those that contain so many different sections. The bill, however, which is not gaining much progress, in the senate at least, is the one authorizing interest to be paid on state deposits. This bill will receive favorable consideration in the house, and that within the next week or ten days. The opposition in the senate does not come so much from a desire to prevent its passage, but more to prevent its author from getting prestige. All parties and factions concede that this bill must become a law at this session, and they dare not oppose its final passage.

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THE AMERICAN FARMER.

The American farmer has been living under protection more than thirty years. Is there one farmer in a thousand who will say that he has prospered and is prospering under it? There is just one agency in the American Union that can destroy this tariff robbery and place in its stead a tariff for revenue only with the pledge of fewer offices, smaller salaries and honest appropriations, and that agency is the Democratic party. Give it full swing and the day of trade emancipation, with the world as our market for the products of American genius, with lower and honest taxes, will soon come. The Dingley bill will kill and bury the Republican party because its operations are clearly against the interests of the American farmer of this country are legislated against the success of all seriously crippled.

—Our \$5.00 suits a corker, and cannot be beaten. S. LEWIN.

Military Assembly. The class of '97, Penna. State College will hold their annual Spring Assembly, in the army, on Friday evening, April 30th. Music will be furnished by Lettan and Chappel.

—The difference between our trousers, and other fellow trousers, is what sells them. S. LEWIN.

Death of a Child. William Henry, son of Harry Wagner, of Snow Shoe Intersection, died on Saturday last, aged seven months. Interment took place Tuesday afternoon in Advent cemetery.

—Everybody should clean up about their premises now. The advent of spring should be the occasion for a general process of cleaning.

—The pike from here to Milesburg is getting in bad shape. Not the nice drive it once was.

GARMAN'S OPERA HOUSE

—APRIL 24TH— SATURDAY AFTERNOON at 2.30 and Evening at 7.45.

ADMISSION FREE.

HEALING WITHOUT MEDICINE

MIRACLES ARE PERFORMED.

The Sick, Crippled and Deaf to be Healed in Public.



Shroder the Healer who created such a furor of excitement in Washington, New York and Philadelphia, at the Vitaphonic Institutes will heal the sick, lame, crippled, rheumatic and paralytic, reduce tumors and cure deafness in public.

He will lecture and give a marvelous exhibition of his wonderful power of healing "by the laying on of hands" a power which has therefore been conceded only to the workers of ancient miracles.

All cures made in public are entirely free and nearly everyone in the audience can feel his strange magnetic influence. The gentleman is the most powerful healer now living, and he has made more remarkable cures in public than any man in the world, his natural power of healing being no less than miraculous.

Everybody is at liberty to bring those of their own choice to the hall for treatment so that they may know that every cure which he makes is genuine. They come to him sick, crippled and in pain, and they leave him freed from all suffering. By making a few passes with his hands over the body and limbs of the patient all pain is stopped and the sick are healed, and often by a mere touch of his hand those who are crippled are enabled to walk. These cures are made in public, where the entire audience can witness them.

The Professor will give two lectures and clinics at Bellefonte Opera House, on Saturday afternoon, at 2:30, and in the evening at 7:45.

He will remain over at the Garman House until Thursday evening, April 29th, where those who are able and willing to pay for private treatment may go and be cured between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m. and 1 to 4 p. m.

\$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 each - 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 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 (on left hand corner) with NUMBER OF THE DISTRICT WRAPPERS 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.

Plain Talk Regarding Clothing. THERE ARE FOUR KINDS: THE TRASHY: THROWN TOGETHER; THE ORDINARY: FAIRLY WELLMADE; THE GOOD: MADE BY EXPERIENCED TAILORS; THE MONTGOMERY: EQUAL TO THE BEST PRODUCTS OF EXCLUSIVE TAILORS. Bicycle Suits | Childrens Suits ALL QUALITIES. | ALL GRADES AND AGES. MONTGOMERY & CO., ALLEGHENY STREET, BELLEFONTE, PENN'A.