

CIRCULATION
OVER 1000.

The Centre Democrat.

WANTED
Correspondents to send in the news—we will publish it.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1897.

VOL. 19. NO. 17.

IN THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

Happenings in the April Term of Court.

CONSTABLES, FIRE WARDENS.

Large List of Petty Commonwealth Cases—Verdicts Rendered and Sentences Imposed—Civil Cases Disposed—As Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq., for our Readers.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

April sessions of Court convened on Monday morning with Judges Love and Faulkner on the bench.

The forenoon session was largely taken up in hearing petitions and motions, presented by the members of the bar.

The list of grand jurors called, when eighteen out of the twenty-four answered to their names. Albert Hoy, of State College, was chosen foreman, and after an able charge of the Court the grand jury for April sessions returned to their room to deliberate on the different bills of indictment to be presented by the District Attorney.

The constables of the different boroughs and townships then made their quarterly returns to this term of Court, after which the Court called them up and explained the duties of constables under an Act of Assembly recently passed, and to go into effect January 1st, 1898, in reference to constables to be fire marshals in their several bailiwicks to extinguish forest fires or to see that they are extinguished. The Court stated further that he would have this Act published in the several county papers.

Com. vs. Coburn King; prosecutor A. Kessler, charge: first count, assault and battery; second count, aggravated assault and battery; third count, felonious assault and battery. The defendant waived the finding of the grand jury and pleaded guilty to the first two counts of the indictment, and the commonwealth entered a nolle prosequi as to the third count. This prosecution grows out of the stabbing affray at Millheim, on April 29th, 1895, when the defendant assaulted Mr. Kessler with a knife, inflicting an ugly wound on the prosecutor, and then skipping the country, but was finally arrested in Clearfield county, about two months ago. The defendant will be sentenced by the Court, later in the week.

The list of traverse jurors called and absentees noted.

On Motion of W. E. Gray, Esq., W. R. Way, of Halfmoon, a juror for this week's court, was excused on account of sickness.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

More motions and petitions presented by members of the bar.

The first case taken up was that of Samuel Gramley, executor, et al., of Sarah Shaffer, deceased, vs. Jacob Hazel, plea assumpsit. This action is brought on a promissory note, dated April 1, 1897, which the defendant alleges was forgiven during the decedent's lifetime, and also interposed, the statute of limitations. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff, for \$83.20.

Com. vs. Catharine Wilson, William G. Twigg and John Heath, charge: first count, cruelty; second count, assault and battery; third count, aggravated assault and battery. The Grand Jury ignored the bill as to John Heath. Prosecutor Jacob M. Claar. At the request of the District Attorney the court entered a nolle prosequi as to the third count in the indictment, and the defendants went to trial on the first two counts. Miss Wilson was the teacher in the Powelton school, in Rush township, during the past winter, and on the 20th day of January last she attempted to correct Miss Rebecca Claar, a girl about fourteen years old, and during the scuffle the pupil drew the stove poker on the teacher and the teacher was worsted. The next day, being the 21st day of January the girl returned to school and the teacher proceeded to inflict corporal punishment, assisted by her brother-in-law, Mr. Twigg as the commonwealth alleges, but which the defendants deny and allege that Mr. Twigg simply separated the teacher and the pupil who had gotten into a regular fight. This pupil used considerable vile and profane language on both of the aforementioned dates and had pulled the teacher's hair down and scratched her in the face, and persisted in calling her vile and ugly names. The commonwealth alleged that the pupil had been inhumanly beaten and sought redress in the court of quarter sessions. The court, in an able charge, submitted the case to the jury on Tuesday afternoon, who brought in a verdict of not guilty but pay one third of the costs, prosecutor J. M. Claar to pay one third of the costs and the county the other third.

Com. vs. John Brumbaugh, charge: betrayal, prosecutrix, Nancy Bailey. The defendant pleaded guilty and the usual sentence imposed in such cases at the hands of the court.

Com. vs. Harry Brown, charge: assault and battery, prosecutor Charles H. Powell. This prosecution grows out of a fight between these two colored parties, at the house of Mr. Charles Speerly, in this town on the 12th day of April. Verdict not guilty, and each to pay one half of the costs, and sentenced accordingly.

Com. vs. Frank Huey, charge: betrayal, prosecutrix, Lucy Hampton. The defendant pleaded guilty and received the usual sentence at the hands of the court.

Com. vs. Charles Speerly and Ann Speerly, charge: first count, keeping and maintaining a bawdy house; prosecutor John L. Dunlap. The defendants pleaded guilty and will be sentenced later during this term of court.

Com. vs. John River, charge, surety of the peace; prosecutrix Ellen Beightol. This case was heard by the court without a jury, and after hearing the testimony the court sentenced the defendant to pay the cost of prosecution.

At this juncture the court again took up the civil list, no commonwealth cases being ready.

David E. Sparr and Daniel Hess, use of Simon Harper, executor of et al., of David E. Sparr vs. J. H. Meyer, executor of et al., of Jacob Meyer, deceased, J. H. Meyer, surviving administrator of Henry Meyer, Sr., deceased; plea scire facias sur judgment. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$2021.10.

William Thompson, Jr., use of Maria D. Rhoads and Edward K. Rhoads, administrators of et al., of Daniel Rhoads, deceased, vs. William and James I. Thompson, and John I. Thompson, Jr., William Thompson, Jr., and James I. Thompson, who survived William Thompson, executors of et al., of Moses Thompson, deceased, plea assumpsit. The defendants appeared in open court and confessed judgment as against themselves and as executors of Moses Thompson, deceased, in the sum of \$2107.67.

J. Miles Green and Frank Green, executors of et al., of Joseph Green, deceased, vs. the Supervisors of the Township of Boggs, plea assumpsit. Discontinued without prejudice.

William Freise vs. J. A. Selligman & Co., plea assumpsit. This action is to recover on an order by a man by the name of Crider, to the plaintiff of these defendants. Verdict on Wednesday morning, in favor of the plaintiff, for \$56.30.

J. B. Leitzell vs. C. E. Bressler, plea assumpsit. This action is brought on a scire facias to revive a judgment on the docket of J. H. Reifsnayner, which judgment the defendant alleged he had settled for. Verdict in favor of the defendant.

George Sheesley vs. C. C. Loose, plea assumpsit. Settled.

J. S. Waite & Co. (J. S. Waite and Darius Waite) use of H. B. Waite, vs. Samuel Frantz; plea assumpsit. Settled.

Com. vs. Samuel Meese, charge: carrying concealed deadly weapons with intent to do bodily injury to the person of another; prosecutor H. H. Montgomery. Verdict on Wednesday afternoon of not guilty, and the county to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Ollie Orbison, charge: carrying concealed weapons and threats; prosecutor H. H. Montgomery. Verdict not guilty, and the county to pay the costs.

At this point a jury of twelve was empanelled and all other traverse jurors discharged.

Grand Jury make their final report:

REPORT OF GRAND JURY.

To the Honorable, the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace in and for the County of Centre. April Sessions 1897.

The Grand Inquest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania inquiring for the County in all matters relating to the same, do respectfully report: That we have acted upon twenty-four bills of indictment, twenty were found true bills and four were ignored.

We beg leave further to report that we have visited and inspected the county buildings.

We found the prison in good condition, and in all respects except we recommend the papering of the sheriff's office, the kitchen, front hall, we also recommend plastering of the jail wall where needed, also patching in watch hall.

We further recommend the purchase of ten wash basins, also new seats for water closets.

We also visited the different offices in the court house and recommend a new roof for court house, also the papering of the main court chamber, also grand jury room and Treasurer's office, also in plastering the various portions needed about the Court House.

We would recommend that there should be a water closet made for the ladies, who are compelled to attend Court in some part of the Court House suitable for such purposes.

We would therefore recommend that the above improvements be made as soon as possible.

We desire to compliment the Janitor for the good care taken of the buildings and surroundings.

We also desire to return thanks to the Court and the District Attorney, for the uniform courtesy and assistance during our deliberations.

ALBERT HOY, Foreman.

WILL PROSPECT FOR OIL

A Test Well Will Soon be Sunk at Milesburg.

INDICATIONS ARE FAVORABLE

Leases Being Made on Land in that Vicinity—Will be Done by an Outside Party—Well Sunk Near There Many Years Ago—Responsible Parties Back of the Enterprise—Leases Must First be Made.

The announcement that parties will soon begin operations, near Milesburg, for the purpose of prospecting for oil, may be a surprise to many of our readers. This is the case, and it is quite probable that in a short time drillers will be at work putting a hole in the earth, to see if any of the precious fluid can be found in that section.

About twenty-five years ago some of the prominent citizens of Milesburg formed a company and expended about two thousand dollars in sinking a test well, on the Carr farm, near that place. The drilling was done by local mechanics who had little or no experience in that kind of work and did not understand the formation where oil is to be found. The tools stuck in the well at a depth of 2,000 feet and after considerable delay and expense the enterprise was abandoned. It is said that there was evidence of oil at the point where they stopped work, and nothing was ever done since.

On Monday Mr. J. Miles Green, of Milesburg, was in town, and gave the writer considerable information of this operation, of which he was the secretary and was largely interested. Mr. Miles stated that recently a practical oil man visited that section, and took a careful survey of the surrounding country and was favorably impressed. The result of his visit was this. He agreed to come there and put down a test well, at his own expense, providing the regulation oil leases could be made in that vicinity. It must cover all adjoining territory, embracing about 25,000 acres. The oil lease stipulates that should oil be found one-eighth of the product shall be given to the land owner. The same form of leases are used in the oil district, where prospecting is done.

Mr. Green is acquainted with the party and assures him to be a man of financial backing, and experienced in prospecting in this manner. No effort has yet been made to secure these leases, but in a few days the matter will be taken hold of and no difficulty is entertained in completing the required amount. Some of the leading citizens of Milesburg are quite enthusiastic over the matter, and will give it all the necessary encouragement.

We do not give this out as a wild-cat story, but the information was furnished by Mr. Green, and other influential men of that place, and there is every reason to believe that operations will begin in that vicinity in a short time.

There will be some satisfaction, at least in prospecting; you can find out what is underneath the ground.

Tramps Must Work.

Tyrone, Pa., has taken a step in the right direction by adopting a tramp ordinance. It provides for the arrest of vagrants and the turning of them over to the street commissioner, who is required to put them to work on the highways of the town, using a ball and chain to hold them in position. They are a nuisance to every town they enter, and it is right that severe means should be adopted to force them to steer clear of the town.

It is not difficult to distinguish a confined hobo from an honest man who may be in search of work, and it will be the duty of the officers to practice good judgment in executing the ordinance.

Altoona and Huntingdon have similar ordinances in force. Tyrone coming in closes up the links, and this long stretch of country now virtually bars out the vagrant. Bellefonte and other towns should adopt measures to rid themselves of the pesty nuisance. If the plan of making the tramp work for his bread as he moves along would become general the nuisance would ere long be abated.

Sudden Death at Blanchard.

Daniel Bitner, of Blanchard, when he retired Thursday evening, was in his usual good health. Friday morning he began complaining with severe pains in his side, and a physician was summoned who did all he could for the man. Mr. Bitner continued to grow worse and expired at 10:45 o'clock. Heart failure was the cause of death. He was 75 years old. His wife, Mary, and the following named children survive: K. Irvin Bitner, of Hagerstown, Md.; Mrs. Kate Scanlon, J. A. Mrs. Alice Harter, Mrs. Thomas Bachelder and Ina M., of Blanchard. The funeral took place Monday morning.

CAPTAIN LEYDEN'S DEATH.

An Order issued by Colonel Hall at Fort Sheridan.

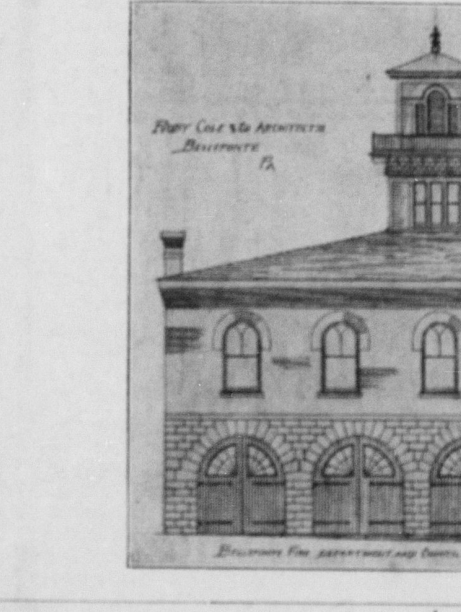
Colonel Hall, commander of the Fourth Infantry, at Fort Sheridan, has issued an order regarding the death of Captain James A. Leyden, formerly of Bellefonte. It is as follows:

With grief, the regimental commander announces to the regiment the death at this post, on the afternoon of the 17th instant, after an illness of only seven days, of Captain James A. Leyden.

He was born at Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 3rd, 1856, and appointed cadet, United States Military Academy, in 1875. Graduating from the academy in 1879, he was commissioned in the Fourth Infantry and was thereafter thoroughly identified with it. Its historian, and from July 1890 until July 1894, its adjutant, he was familiar with the minutest detail of its eventful history, and did much by example and precept to maintain its good name. In whatever duties he was engaged, whether in garrison, campaign, or in exploration of country little known before he visited it, his characteristics were perfect reliability and thoroughness.

As a pure minded and honorable gentleman whose congenial companionship we shall sorely miss.

In respect for his memory, the officers



of the regiment will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Newberry Sleepwalker's Trip.

James Carey, aged 16, after playing ball, retired at his home, in Newberry, Saturday evening. Shortly before midnight he was found walking in his sleep, by several young men, in South Williamsport. He was partly dressed, clothed only in his shirt, shoes and stockings. He was furnished with other clothing and taken to his home, in Newberry. Sunday afternoon the young man's coat, vest, pantaloons and hat were found in a ploughed field in South Williamsport. It is believed that Carey had arisen in his sleep, dressed and walked to the field, and thinking that he was going to bed, he took off a portion of his clothing and then either laid down on the ground or wandered about until he was found. Carey cannot recall anything from the time he went to bed until he was awakened by the men who found him in South Williamsport.

Struck By a Beam.

Another sad accident occurred near Carrol, several miles east of Loganton, last Thursday. Emanuel Beck a carpenter, had arrived home with a load of lumber. Mr. Beck was sitting on top of the load and as he was driving into the wagon shed, he leaned forward and bent his head downward to escape being struck by an overhead beam of the shed. Unfortunately Mr. Beck misjudged the distance, and the beam caught him on the back of the head, and the wagon making an upward movement, the man's back was pressed so tightly down between or against his legs that several ribs were broken.

Delicate Operation.

The Tyrone Herald, on Friday contained the following: Dr. W. F. Beck, of Spruce Creek assisted by Dr. Allie J. Appleby, last Thursday performed an intricate and delicate operation in surgery by removing the eye ball of John McMonigal, of Hannah Furnace, at the home of his son-in-law, Joseph Lewis, West Fifteen street. Glaucoma had attacked the eye some six weeks ago and it was necessary to remove the afflicted eye to save the sight of the other, which was successfully done. He is doing as well as could be expected at this writing.

Alderman Fined the Mayor.

It is not often that an alderman gets a whack at a mayor, but that is what happened at Altoona, Thursday. Mayor Barr, of that city, was fined three dollars and costs for retaining a fee from a man after he had served time for an offense he had committed. After having served eighteen hours' time for being intoxicated the mayor also imposed an additional pecuniary fine, whereupon the offender, James McCann, sued the mayor for unlawfully keeping money that did not belong to him. The alderman sustained the prosecutor.

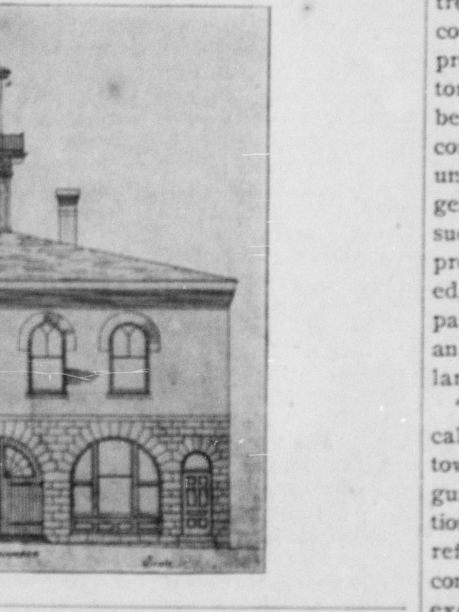
BELLEFONTE'S BORO BUILDING.

The New Structure to be Erected on Howard St.

A HANDSOME STRUCTURE.

Will be Occupied by the Logan Fire Company—Used as a Council Chamber and Contain the Lock Up—Cost About \$4000.

For about ten years this boro owned a lot on Howard street, occupied by the Hook & Ladder department. Since the building in which the Logan Fire company is now quartered become unfit for occupancy it was recently decided to erect a new and more convenient structure on the lot. The design furnished by Robert Cole & Co., was approved and we herewith furnish a correct likeness of the same, made from the drawing. The structure will cost about \$4000 when furnished. The finance committee is arranging for the funds, which when provided, work will be commenced at once,



by Mr. Benj. Bradley, contractor.

The old Logan building was occupied for almost thirty years by the company and is unfit now for their needs, council also used this building.

The new building will contain council chamber, police headquarters, a lock up, and special apartments for the Logan Fire company's apparatus and contain a tower for drying hose. The structure will be of Mill Hall pressed brick.

After Gold.

The directors of the Tussey Mountain Mining and Smelting company met at Leister house on Wednesday, and among other business transacted it was resolved to purchase all necessary machinery for steam drills which will be put in operation at once and also "T" iron for the track in the tunnel. The cross ties are being placed in position now. The gold vein has increased in richness—Huntingdon News.

Good Bill.

It is said that a Nebraska legislator has introduced a bill "making it a misdemeanor for any citizen to have in his possession a deck of cards with more than four aces or kings in it." No mention is made of queens, jacks, or spot cards, and five of one kind of any of these would often be of much assistance when things were looking unpromising.

Sudden Death at Beech Creek.

William Packer, formerly of Marsh Creek, Centre county, Pa., died very suddenly at Beech Creek Saturday, from paralysis. Deceased had been in his usual good health until 10 o'clock Saturday evening, when he was stricken down and died a few hours later. His funeral took place Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock.—Lock Haven Democrat.

Appointments.

Rev. O. L. Saylor will be at Centre Hall to hold their first quarterly conference, on Friday at 1.30. Conference in the Zion church, near Tusseyville; preaching in the evening. Preaching at Linden Hall, Saturday evening. Communion services Sunday morning at Zion church. Communion in the evening at Spring Mills.

New Firm.

John F. Short, formerly of the Clearfield Public Spirit, has purchased the interest of Chas. C. Howe, in the Clearfield Republican. Mr. Howe is a candidate for sheriff. The paper will be published in the name of Owens & Short. Mr. Short is a practical newspaper man who can instill some new life in that publication.

Married at Sunbury.

Thursday evening the 15th, William O'Neil, of Lock Haven, and Miss Lillie Summers, of Aaronsburg, were united in Holy wedlock at the home of Frank King, at Sunbury. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. H. Hartzler.

THE NEW ACT.

Making Constables of Townships Fire Wardens.

Many inquiries having been made by constables as to what their duties are and the time when their service begins as fire wardens, we herewith publish the act, which was signed by Governor Hastings March 30, 1897:

"Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That on and after the first day of January, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, the constables of the various townships of the commonwealth shall be ex-officio fire wardens, whose duty it shall be, when fire is discovered in the forests within their respective townships, immediately to take such measures as are necessary for its extinction, and to this end to have authority to call upon any person or persons within their respective townships for assistance; the said fire wardens to receive fifteen (15) cents per hour, and the persons so assisting twelve (12) cents per hour, as compensation for their services; the expense thereof shall be paid, one-half out of the treasury of the respective county, and the remaining half of said expenses shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the treasury of said county, out of moneys not otherwise appropriated, upon warrant from the auditor general, but no such warrant shall be drawn until the respective county commissioners shall have first furnished under oath or affirmation to the auditor general, a written itemized statement of such expense, and until the same is approved by the auditor general: Provided, That no county shall be liable to pay for this purpose, in any one year, an amount exceeding five hundred dollars.

"Section 2. Any person who being called upon by the fire warden of his township to furnish assistance in extinguishing forest fires as provided in section one shall, without reasonable cause, refuse to render such assistance, upon conviction thereof shall pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars, or undergo imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

"Section 3. The fire wardens of each township throughout the commonwealth shall, in the first week of each term of the court of quarter sessions of their respective counties, make returns to said court under oath or affirmation, of all violations occurring within their respective townships which may come or be brought to their notice of any of the provisions of any law, now enacted, or hereafter to be enacted for the purpose of protecting forests from fire, and it shall be the special duty of the judge of said court to see these returns are faithfully made; and on failure of any warden to comply with this provision, or if it be found upon examination or inquiry by said court that any fire warden has either wilfully or negligently omitted to report all such violation occurring within his township, or having failed to perform his duty as set forth in section one of this act, such fire warden or constable shall be deemed guilty of wilfully or negligently making a false return, or neglect of duty, and the court shall suspend him from office and direct the district attorney to indict and try him, and if found guilty, he shall be fined in a sum not exceeding three months, both or either, at the discretion of the court.

"Section 4. The term forest herein used shall not, for the purposes of this bill be held to include an area of timber land or brush land of less than fifty acres in extent, unless such said area shall by proximity to other timber land and be liable to convey fire to an area of brush land or timber land containing at least fifty acres."

Attempted Robbery at Zion.

Some time during Wednesday night of last week burglars attempted to break into the general store of B. A. Noll and Brother at Zion, but were evidently frightened off before they succeeded in gaining an entrance. The attempt was made to force an entrance at the double doors in the rear and they had cut around the lock and opened the outside doors, and had started to work on the inner doors, but for some reason gave it up as a bad job and left.

House Burned.

On Monday afternoon 15th, the home of Henry and Martin Shade, one and one-half mile east of Stover's hotel, on the mountain between Sugar and Brush valleys, was burned to the ground. There was no one at home but the women and children when the fire broke out, which originated probably from a defective flue. Nothing was saved and there was no insurance on the property.

Signs Good.

The test well, for oil in Clinton county has been measured and is now almost 3,000 feet deep. Signs are good, but as yet no oil has been found.

—Selling childrens all wool suits at \$1.00. PHILAD. BRANCH.