

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, -- EDITOR & PROP. CIRCULATION, OVER 1800. Telephone Call 183.

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EDITORIAL.

WITH a full crop in Centre county this season our merchants can find hope for an improvement in trade during the ensuing year. Good crops though will not correct the evils of a vicious monetary system.

It is amusing to hear the gold democrats, who helped to elect McKinley, kick about the passage of the new tariff. What else could they expect? These chaps are now wandering about in search of some congenial habitation.

W. L. MALIN is prominently mentioned in connection with the Deputy Revenue Collectors in this district. Edward Chambers, Esq., formerly held this position and no doubt would be delighted to serve again in the same capacity.

TURKEY has about routed the Greek forces and the war is practically at an end. The only question remains is the amount of indemnity, and other important concessions. The Greeks fought valiantly but were greatly outnumbered.

SOME of the republicans about town are growing hot under their collars over the possibility of Governor Hastings securing for his friend, W. L. Malin, the Deputy Revenue collectorship in this district. Malin played "Friday" long enough to the Governor to entitle him to a slice of the political pap.

RESOLUTIONS commending Dr. Swallow's action in his charge against the State's Administration were unanimously adopted at the Prohibition convention held at Lebanon on Tuesday. Dr. Swallow seems to be gaining public favor right along. The republicans would like to drop Swallow, but he won't let go.

At present the politicians have turned public attention to the discussion of the Dingley tariff. McKinley promises to undertake the immediate consideration of our national finances, but that has been set aside. It is safe to say that there will be no change in this direction as the goldites have things arranged to suit their purposes.

On Tuesday stock of the Standard Oil Company, sold in New York Exchange, reached the highest figures ever known. It will be remembered that this same company secured the passage of a bill through the legislature of this state and was signed by a republican governor, which gave it great advantage. The company has been prospering abundantly ever since.

It is said that Abraham V. Miller has been making good headway as an applicant for the post office at State College. The republicans certainly owe him something. During the recent campaign they always spoke of his war record and many wounds, and faithful party service. Now if they want to be consistent every politician in the county should give him a bit of assistance. They now can reward him in a substantial way. They have the positions at their disposal. Will they do it? It would be their only course. All would favor his appointment.

THE fight for the Bellefonte postoffice is gradually simmering down to the leaders, and there still is much uncertainty. It has assumed a triangular phase. If rumors are of any account, the situation is as follows. Gov. Hastings has pledged his support for Mrs. Keller, widow of the late Col. D. S. Keller. Hon. John G. Love, president judge of this county, who was a classmate of President McKinley at the Albany law school and also a personal friend, manipulated a republican county convention here and secured an endorsement for McKinley, the first in the state and in opposition to the Quay people. He will be a strong factor in the contest and may name the man. He is quoted for H. C. Brew, Congressman Arnold is said to be a man who always stands by his friends, and as he had no stauncher supporter than Al. Dale, Esq., in Centre county he is said to have committed himself in that direction and will be backed by Senator Quay. There is the situation in a nutshell. Who can figure out the result? Besides the above there are a number of hungry crows sitting on the fence entertaining hope of a compromise, on a new man.

JACKSON'S PROPHECY.

The corporations and wealthy individuals who are engaged in large manufacturing establishments desire a high tariff to increase their gains. Designing politicians will support it to conciliate their favor and to obtain the means for profuse expenditure for the purpose of purchasing influence in other quarters. Do not allow yourselves, my fellow citizens, to be misled in this subject. It is a system of injustice, and if persisted in will lead to corruption and must end in ruin--Andrew Jackson in his farewell address.

FAMINE AND PESTILENCE.

By the ravages of the plague in India, Julian Hawthorne, now investigating conditions there, finds that 30,000 people have died, and about 200,000 have died as the result of the famine. This is a terrible story to tell of the closing years of the century that has accomplished such great things for the betterment of mankind. It is encouraging to know that both the famine and plague have passed their highest fatality mark and are now on the wane. There was a decrease in the number of those receiving government relief in the famine districts of 300,000 on April 15 compared with the same day of March. The distress in the strictly British provinces of India has been far less than in the native, the native states having neglected precautions even when famine was inevitable. The Indian government has coped with this famine in a practical and efficient fashion in which no other great famine of modern days has been handled, and as a natural result there has not been one-tenth part of the actual starvation which was anticipated, while the mortality due to destitution has amounted to very little indeed. It is wonderful to read of the relief provided for the necessitous--what the government has done and is now doing. Think of the vast work of providing labor, wages and subsistence for 3,000,000 of people employed on the relief works, with the vast multitude of women, children and aged persons behind them!

The flood tide of the plague has also been reached, and the deaths for the last month reported, coming down to three weeks ago, shows a large reduction from the death roll of the previous months. We can hardly realize the mortality of those attacked until confronted with the cold figures. Of 11,300 seizures in Bombay City from October 2 to April 15, 9,662 died--a mortality between 85 and 86 per cent; and of 3,531 seizures in Karachi up to the same date, 2,944 died--a mortality of between 83 and 84 per cent. The yellow fever is the worst scourge we have in the United States, and 25 per cent fatalities of those attacked is about the highest death rate of the last visitations of that disease in southern cities.

SILVER AND PROSPERITY.

The Philadelphia Inquirer is one of the leading republican organs in this state. During the last campaign its editorial and news columns were filled with assaults upon Bryan and the Free Silver cause. It has always been a strong advocate of the Gold Standard and McKinleyism. The following clipping is taken from its financial report on Saturday 8th, which is quite in contrast with its editorial utterings. It declares that all the free silver countries to-day are growing exceedingly prosperous while a corresponding depression exists in other parts of the world where the gold monetary system exists. How the Inquirer will be able to reconcile this report with their editorial teachings is hard to say. The following is the clipping:

"Silver sold yesterday at the lowest price ever reached in the history of commerce. Since the year opened it has fallen 5 cents an ounce and at 60 1/2 cents, yesterday's current price, it is fully a cent below the panic price of 1893, when the closing of the India Mint startled the world. The cause of the recent decline is the decision of Japan to introduce the gold standard, which had thrown upon India the task of sustaining the price of the white metal, and India, impoverished by famine and devastated by a plague, has not been able to buy. At the present price of the metal the bullion in our silver dollar is worth 43 1/4 cents, a figure that must bring despair to the hearts of the really sincere advocate of international bimetalism. Yet the fall in the price has produced really important results in those countries that use silver as a currency, and an evidence of this may be seen in the earnings statements of Mexican railroads, printed from time to time in this column, which frequently show increases of 40 per cent., as compared with a year ago. All silver using countries are enjoying an exceptional degree of prosperity and the lower this metal goes the more prosperous they become. Any further decline will react unfavorably upon us, not only from the fact that we get a low price for an important product, but from the fact that the exports of merchandise from Mexico, China and other silver countries will infallibly increase and depress the wages of labor in this country. It is difficult to conceive, however, that any further important decline in the value of silver can possibly occur."

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The democratic voters of Centre county will meet at the regular places for holding the general elections, in the respective election districts, on Saturday June 5, 1897, to elect delegates to the county convention. Under the rules of the party the election will be opened at 3 p. m. and closed at 7 p. m. The delegates chosen at the above stated time will meet in the court house, in Bellefonte, on Tuesday June 8, 1897, at 12 o'clock noon, and nominate one candidate for jury commissioner and one candidate for county surveyor; elect five delegates to the State convention to be held at Reading at the call of the Executive committee of the State Central committee, and a chairman of the County committee to serve from January 1, 1898, to January 1, 1899; and to transact such other business as may appear before the convention in the interest of the party.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Legislators Move Very Slowly in Their Labors.

YOUNG TROLLEY DAMAGE BILL.

Though Defeated Last Week, an Effort Will Be Made to Have the Measure Reconsidered--The Pittsburg Reconstruction Bill.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, May 11.--There is still talk of the final adjournment of the legislature during the first week of June, but nobody seriously thinks that the lawmaking branch of the state government will dissolve before the 20th of next month. At the Friday session of the house Mr. Miller, of Somerset, offered a resolution fixing June 3 as the day for the final roundup, but this resolution goes over under the rules and will probably be referred to the committee on rules, where it will remain until the decks are sufficiently cleared to enable the leaders of the legislature to fix a definite date for adjournment. During the debate on a bill a day or two ago one of the members expressed some concern about the mortality of those attacked until confronted with the cold figures. Of 11,300 seizures in Bombay City from October 2 to April 15, 9,662 died--a mortality between 85 and 86 per cent; and of 3,531 seizures in Karachi up to the same date, 2,944 died--a mortality of between 83 and 84 per cent. The yellow fever is the worst scourge we have in the United States, and 25 per cent fatalities of those attacked is about the highest death rate of the last visitations of that disease in southern cities.

The Trolley Damage Bill.

Representative Young, of Tioga county, has charge of a bill providing for the settlement of damages accruing to owners of property abutting upon public roads occupied by street railways. This measure is especially objectionable to the steam railroad corporations, and they are losing no opportunity to accomplish its defeat. In one way or another its progress through the house has been retarded until this late day so that the friends of the bill are much concerned about its probable fate. At the brief session last Friday morning an attempt was made to advance the bill on the calendar by securing for it a special order. This failed after one of the most exciting discussions of the present session. Mr. Young made a strong speech in support of the resolution to give the bill an advanced position, saying that the great importance of the proposed remedial legislation was ample justification for the resolution. He declared that the only opposition to the bill came from the steam railroads, and that the defeat of the measure would mean serious loss to many persons throughout the state who have put their money into electric railways. Mr. Piolet, of Bradford county, said that the projectors of trolley lines, if they wanted the right of eminent domain, should be willing to pay for that right, as the steam railroads do. He argued that the use of the country roads would be strongly opposed by the farmers of the state. Mr. Edmiston, also a Bradford county farmer, and one of the most popular members of the house, insisted that the measure would mean serious loss to many persons throughout the state who have put their money into electric railways. Mr. Piolet, of Bradford county, said that the projectors of trolley lines, if they wanted the right of eminent domain, should be willing to pay for that right, as the steam railroads do. He argued that the use of the country roads would be strongly opposed by the farmers of the state. Mr. Edmiston, also a Bradford county farmer, and one of the most popular members of the house, insisted that the measure would mean serious loss to many persons throughout the state who have put their money into electric railways.

Suit to Restrain State Officials.

An unusual proceeding was commenced in the Dauphin county courts last Friday to restrain Governor Hastings and Secretary of the Commonwealth Reeder from issuing a charter to the Franklin Gas company or any other corporation for the purpose of supplying gaslight to the city of Pittsburg. This is the first proceeding of the kind in the history of the commonwealth. The case will be watched with much interest by the bar of the state, as well as by the parties concerned, for the reason that the right to restrain the governor from issuing a corporate franchise is a novel legal proposition in Pennsylvania. The committee appointed by the chairman of the Republican state committee to review the various reform bills introduced by the party organization, so as to make them conform to the views of the majority, has had a couple of meetings, but its work is not yet completed. The civil service bill seems to be giving the committee the most trouble. This measure is not popular with the working politicians, and considerable diplomacy must be used to make it all acceptable. The present bill provides for an annual expenditure of \$25,000 in salaries, which the committee regards as a bad feature. They think this commission should be self-sustaining, like the state pharmaceutical board, the revenues to be derived from the applicants for examination. The present bill makes applicants for all positions stand about the same examinations, which is regarded as unfair, and will be changed. As the bill will likely be made to apply to all cities all the policemen and firemen in the state may be put under its provisions. All the other bills will be reported practically in their original form.

An Effort at Reconsideration.

Those who spoke against the resolution urged that any advancement of this bill, admitting its importance, would mean the sidetracking of other bills equally important. After a very full discussion of the matter the resolution fell by the vote of 81 yeas to 63 nays, being less than the necessary two-thirds vote. There is no question that the friends of the bill were too sanguine, and permitted the resolution to be defeated through their failure to demand the yeas and nays, which would have placed the members on record. A standing vote does not do this so effectively. Of course they were much disappointed, and an effort will be made to reconsider the vote by which the resolution fell.

The Young bill is one of the most important before the legislature, and there is no measure pending in which so many people are interested. For several years the trolley railway development throughout the state has been remarkable, and not until the supreme court interfered with a disastrous decision affecting the rights of abutting property owners on highways did the construction of these railways through the country districts cease. Under this decision the electric railway people found it almost impossible to go ahead, and the bill which is being so vigorously antagonized by the steam railroads is intended to remedy the existing condition of things.

Lieutenant Governor Lyon's proposition to oust the present city administration of Pittsburg, as embodied in a bill now before the legislature, was given a very decided push forward last Thursday. This measure has been called "Jack the Ripper," because of its radical provisions. Primarily the bill is intended to reclassify the cities of the state and put Pittsburg in the first class, with Philadelphia. Accompanying the main proposition is a proposition ousting from office the mayor and other city officials ten days after the approval of the bill, and authorizing the governor to appoint their successors. Until recently it was not expected that this bill would be seriously urged upon the members of the legislature, but the feeling of bitterness between the factions in the Republican party has grown so intense as to induce the Quay faction to insist upon the passage of this bill, in order to punish Senators Magee and Flinn and their anti-Quay adherents in Pittsburg. On Thursday Senator Quay directed his forces over the long distance telephone marshaled the forces so well that the bill had a substantial majority on second reading. It is said that no further effort will be made to pass the bill, but friends of Senators Magee and Flinn are of the opinion that the other side will push the measure to final passage. One of the features of the fight on this bill was the alliance of the Democratic minority with the Quay people.

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Counties Must Pay For Extrajudicial.

One of the bills which is being pushed through the legislature with all the celerity possible requires counties to pay the costs and expenses of apprehending and returning a fugitive from justice charged with or convicted of a felony. It has already passed the senate, and last evening was read the second time in the house. Today it goes to final passage on a special order. The purpose of this bill is to extradite Charles Still, who was convicted at York three years ago of administering knockout drops to a resident of that city. Still fled the country after his conviction, and was apprehended recently at Glasgow. He is now in jail at London, awaiting extradition. The commissioners of York county have refused to pay the expenses of bringing Still back, which explains the rush on this bill. Still was formerly a police officer at York, and was involved in several brutal encounters.

Friends of the proposition to change the basis of distributing the school funds among the several counties are awaiting with much anxiety the disposition of the bill dividing the appropriation on the basis of one-third on the number of schools, one-third on the children in the schools and the balance on the taxables. Philadelphia is particularly opposed to any change, because the suggestion in this bill would reduce the amount of money received by Philadelphia to the extent of over \$200,000. Pittsburg will also be seriously affected, but the members of the legislature from that city generously admit that the country districts do not get their share.

An interesting question was submitted to Attorney General McCormick by the secretary of agriculture in connection with the investigation of bribery charges against an agent of the dairy and food commissioner at Pittsburg. The head of the department of agriculture wanted to know whether his department would be justified in paying the attorney's fees and costs in the case of the accused agent of the state, or whether such fees and expenses should be paid by the agent himself. The attorney general says the question is one of great importance and deserving of the most careful consideration. He concludes that the commonwealth should incur no obligations and pay no expense either in the way of counsel fees or costs in such an investigation. He suggests that to do so would be to establish a bad precedent.

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