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The Centre Democrat.

During the year 1897, there were printed 102,517 copies of THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT, at 20¢ each week, allowing for misprints, our actual average extra circulation was over 2,000 COPIES PER WEEK. Intelligent advertisers will appreciate this statement.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 1.

ABOUT THE COURT HOUSE

A Few Items of Interest From the Various Offices

CO. AUDITORS IN SESSION

The Birth and Death Rate During the Past Year—Large Amount Paid for Scalps—Indigent Soldiers Buried—The Amount of the Triennial Assessment Just Made—Interesting Statistics.

According to the several returns of the assessors of Centre county at the triennial assessments for 1898, there are 12,564 taxables, 1,946,604 acres of cleared land, and 138,313 acres of timber lands, the aggregate value of which is \$10,852,397. The property exempt from taxation is valued at \$1,597,625. The horses and mules in the county subject to taxation are 7,357, valued at \$104,957. The value of occupations is put down at \$468,191. There have been returned 3,591 male and 98 female dogs. Judgments, mortgages, etc., assessed for State purposes, are valued at \$2,854,093. There have been returned but 123 carriages subject to taxation, valued at \$3,435. The unseated lands number 37,851 acres, valued at \$628,392. The County Commissioners will hold appeals at their office in Bellefonte on Jan. 7th and 8th. The county is out of debt, having been able to meet all financial demands, and at the end of the year has a nice surplus to carry into the year 1898.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

During the year ending Dec. 1, there were born in Centre county 1,168 children, as returned, being an increase of 83 over the year 1896. In the meantime 479 persons died, an increase of 20 over the death rate of 1896. The North ward increased its birth rate by 17, the other ward decreased its birth rate by 11 from last year. College borough, Harris, Marin, Miles and Union township decreased their birth rate from 1896, while Snow Shoe increased its birth rate more than any other locality in the county for 1897.

COUNTY AUDITORS IN SESSION.

The county auditors, Messrs G. G. Fink, Frank Hess and J. D. Wagner, met on Monday and organized for their work of examining and passing upon the work done and the accounts rendered by the various county officials. Mr. H. B. Pontius was elected clerk for their session. We are informed that the affairs of the county are in a very creditable shape.

SCALPS RETURNED.

The past six months the following number of scalps were returned to the county for the payment of the bounty: 125 foxes, 53 minks and 37 wild cats. That takes considerable money from the county treasury to pay for these scalp bounties.

INDIGENT SOLDIERS.

Centre county, during the year 1897, has buried 24 indigent soldiers of the rebellion at a cost of \$875. During that year some 80 odd soldiers have died in the county.

50TH ANNIVERSARY.

On the 28th of December 1897, Mr. and Mrs. William Foster passed the fiftieth milestone of their married life, surrounded by over one hundred relatives and friends. The anniversary was held at the Foster homestead, near State College, Pa.

The day was bright and pleasant, an ideal wedding day. The bride was 70 years of age and the groom 78. The relatives present were Mr. Foster's twin sister Mrs. Hetty McCoy, of Fredericksburg, Ohio, who celebrated her golden wedding about nine years ago; Mrs. Katherine Whitmer another sister, of Philadelphia; Mr. Nathan Corl, of Nebraska, a brother of Mrs. Foster; two sons James and John, of Alabama; Major Foster and family, of Harrisburg; Mrs. Sue Warner and daughter, Mr. Jean Monroe, of Ohio; Mrs. Jane Young, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Barber, Mr. Robert Foster and Miss Hannah Foster, of Millinburg; James Halfpenny and wife, Miss Kate Halfpenny, of Lewisburg; J. Dorsey Hunter, of Gettysburg; Dr. Uriah Reed, sister and daughter, of Jersey Shore. Short exercises were introduced with a talk by Rev. Dennison. A history of the family was read by Major Foster, and a short poem, written for the occasion was read by J. Dorsey Hunter, after which refreshments were served. Many substantial, useful and beautiful presents were received among which were a number in gold, silver, cut glass and china.

The history of the Foster family prepared by Major Foster, reached this office too late for publication.

Fell From a Hay Mow.

William Spangler recently fell from his hay mow at Blanchard and sustained a fracture of the collar bone and two ribs

RECENT DEATHS.

MRS. HENDRICKSON.—On Wednesday the 29th, Mrs. Jane S., wife of John S. Hendrickson, died at their home on East Linn street. She had been ailing for some time from paralysis.

The deceased was born in Bellefonte March 24, 1841, thus making her age 56 years, 9 months and 5 days. Her maiden name was Jane S. Harris. She was the daughter of Joseph Harris deceased. Before her marriage she belonged to the society of friends, afterwards she joined her husband's church, the Reformed church of Middletown, Pa., in which city she resided for many years previous to coming to Bellefonte.

She is survived by her husband, John S. Hendrickson, and two children, Miss Mary Harris Hendrickson and Charles J. Hendrickson. She leaves two sisters, Mrs. Eliza F. Blanchard, of Bellefonte; and Mrs. Wistar Morris, of Overbrook. She was also a sister of the late John Harris, the druggist.

A YOUNG LADY.—Beulah Maud Miller the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, died on Sunday 26th. She leaves to mourn her loss her parents and two sisters and one brother, namely, Myrtle, Edna and Roland.

She was born in Reedsville, Mifflin county. Her age was 23 years and 6 days. The cause of her death was due to kidney troubles.

The funeral took place on Tuesday 27th, from the Methodist church. Interment was made at Meyer's cemetery at Buffalo Run.

AN AGED LADY.—Mr. Elizabeth Rote, an aged widow lady residing in Coleville, died Dec. 23rd while sitting at the breakfast table.

The deceased was the widow of the late Peter Rote who died in 1876. She was born at Woodward, Centre county, January 5th, 1805. Had she lived until the 5th of January she would have been ninety-three years old.

Four children survive, they are: Jas. Rote, of Coleville; Mrs. George Cox, of Half Moon hill; Miss Sallie Herrington, of Altoona; and Miss Harriet Rote, who resided with her mother in Coleville.

DIED IN PHILADELPHIA.—Dr. W. V. Runkle died in Philadelphia on Christmas, and the body was brought to his former home, Tusseyville, for interment on Thursday following. Death was due to paralysis, his age was about 50 years. The deceased was a son of Judge John Runkle, dec'd, and a brother of Rev. Calvin Runkle, of Hublersburg.

A widow survives him. Dr. Runkle prospered in his profession and owned considerable property in that city.

DIED AT REBERSBURG.—Reuben Kreamer, aged 67 years died at Rebersburg, on Monday the 19th, after a short illness with heart trouble. He was one of the influential men of Brush-valley and leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Christmas morning Mr. Uriah Ossman took suddenly ill, at his home on the farm, west of Centre Hall, and died a few hours after. His ailment was apoplexy, and this was his second attack. A wife, three sons and one daughter survive him. His age was 67 years.

DIED AT CATAWISSA.—Hiram Reeder, father of Wilbur Reeder, Esq., of this place, died at Catawissa on Saturday. The funeral occurred on Monday.

No Pensions for Rich Widows.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Davis, in an opinion just made public, has enunciated the policy of the Administration upon the claims for pensions made by widows who already have property interests and settled incomes. The case was that of Louise Wiemerslage, widow of Bernard Wiemerslage, late of Co. D, 58 Illinois Infantry. It was shown that she is the absolute owner of 51 acres of valuable real estate, situated about 12 miles from Chicago, and has other sources of income and can not claim to be a dependent widow.

The Log Still Sound.

An end of one of the logs that was taken out of the farm house of S. M. McCormick, near Salona recently, was sawed off a few days ago, when the pine stick was found to be in a sound state of preservation. The log had been in the house for over 100 years. The dwelling was erected by Samuel Wilson.

A "Coming Wedding."

Cards are out for the marriage of Miss Mamie E. Gentzel, formerly of this place, now of York, Pa., and Mr. Wilbert H. Thomas, a prominent business young man, of that place.

To cure a cough or cold in one day take Krumrine's Compound Syrup of Tar. Money refunded if it fails to cure it.

VALUE OF THE CORN CROP

Greater Than Most People Would Imagine

CORN IS THE KING OF CROPS

Will Become More Important From Year to Year—A Comparison With Wheat—What Science May do for this Cereal in the Future.

The New York Journal of Commerce crowns corn as the king of American cereal crops and declares it is now ahead of wheat in all respects but one—the volume exported. That is true, too. The corn crop occupies 82,000,000 acres and the yield averages about 2,000,000,000 bushels, while only 34,000,000 acres are devoted to wheat raising and the yield of that crop is about 450,000 bushels on the average. Of course wheat brings more per bushel, but the average selling value of the corn crop is \$600,000,000, while that of wheat is but \$300,000,000. During the six years from and including 1890 to 1895 the average exports of wheat and flour were valued at \$157,000,000 per year while those of corn were only \$60,000,000 per year. This year, however, a change is taking place. For the first nine months of 1897 the exports of wheat and flour were valued \$95,000,000, while those of corn reached the total of \$47,000,000, and the exports of wheat and flour for a part of this year have been exceptionally large.

Corn is likely to become more important as a crop from year to year. Not only is its consumption in the United States enormous, both as a human food and for hogs and cattle but there is now a promise that parts of the corn plant which have heretofore been discarded as of no utility can be made to yield a revenue equal to, if not in excess of what the farmer receives for the grain. Indeed it has been estimated that the corn crop may, with the aid of science, be made to yield the farmer \$40 an acre, where it yields but \$14 now.

A Financial Problem.

Now who lost? A banker sauntering home for his dinner, saw a \$10 bill lying on the curbstone. Of course he picked it up and took the number in order to find the owner. While at home his wife remarked that the butcher had sent in a bill amounting to \$10. The only money he had with him was the bill he had found, which he gave to her and she paid the butcher. The butcher paid it to the farmer for a calf and the farmer paid it to the washerwoman, and she owing the banker a note of \$10 went to the banker and paid the note. The banker recognized the bill as the one he had found, and which up to this time had settled \$50 of debts. On a careful examination he found the bill was counterfeit. Now will some of our financial friends tell us what has been lost in this transaction, and by whom, if any?

Not a Good Citizen.

The Clinton Democrat says: When you hear a blatant, big mouthed young man talking down the town just ask yourself what he has ever done to make the town better. If his faults were written on his forehead he would pull his cap down over his face. You will find that half the time he is a loafer, who has lived mostly off his mother, his sisters or his brothers. Don't attempt to deprecate the place of your birth; better go out and hang yourself. If you don't like the town, very likely it don't like you, so skip. You will not be missed.

Officers Undine Fire Co.

Following officers of the Undine Fire Company were elected for the ensuing year:

President—P. H. Garrey; Vice-President—Scott Lose; Rec. Secretary—Harry Parks; Financial Sec.—Ed Gehret; Treas.—Joseph Beezer; Chief—F. C. Walk; First Asst.—Joseph Mack; Chief Eng.—Joseph Wise; Band Master—Christ Smith. After the election the company adjourned to Knisleys restaurant where a banquet ensued.

Officers Elected.

On Tuesday the Centre county Patrons Ins. Company held their annual meeting at the Brant House and it was largely attended. The following officers were re-elected: President—J. S. Frain; Vice-President—Samuel Bailey; Secretary—J. A. Kellar; Treasurer—Wm. Kerr. Over sixty thousand new insurance was approved. This form of insurance has been a great saving to the farmers.

Y. M. C. A. Closes

The directors of the Y. M. C. A. at Lock Haven recently voted to discontinue the organization at that place owing to a lack of support. This will go into effect February 1st and the regular secretary will be dispensed with for the present.

JANUARY TRIAL LIST.

Commencing Monday, January 24th—Continuing two weeks.

FIRST WEEK.

David Rothrock, admr., vs. Henry Rothrock, Jr., et al.
 Fannie G. Brown vs. John Curtin, et al.
 Lida Gregg vs. John Curtin, et al.
 Sophia Rocky vs. S. Peck, Exr.
 Sophia Rocky vs. S. Peck, Exr.
 Julia A. Brown vs. S. Peck, Exr.
 Julia A. Brown vs. S. Peck, Exr.
 Jac. Dutweiler vs. Grove & Orwig, Dauberman & Krumbine vs. O. L. Saylor, et al.
 A. P. Luse & Son vs. O. L. Saylor, et al.
 Eithan Tigney, et al vs. O. P., Boggs Twp.

SECOND WEEK.

Mary S. Thomas vs. Thos. Butler, et al.
 Brockerhoff Est., vs. J. H. Orvis Est.
 Alice Garbrick vs. J. B. Gentzle.
 Geo. Garbrick vs. J. B. Gentzle.
 Geo. Garbrick vs. J. B. Gentzle.
 Jno F. Potter, Adm'r., vs. Union Central L. Ins. Co.
 Calvin Davidson vs. Harriet Stere.
 Calvin Davidson vs. Priscilla Stere.
 Calvin Davidson vs. Eli Stere.
 Milesburg B. & L. A. use of vs. Wm. Miller, et al.
 Geo. W. Ford's, Exr's vs. W. J. Jackson, et al.
 A. R. Long vs. Cyrus Gordon.
 Snyder Bros. use of vs. Thos. Collins.
 W. E. Delmage, use of vs. A. M. McClain.

Use of John Hoffa vs. I. C. M. F. I. Co.

J. B. Ard, et al vs. Pine Grove Water Co.
 Lillie Essington vs. Mary M. Boileau.
 Jno. Curtin, et al Trustee vs. J. L. Bathurst.
 Harry M. Carlisle vs. L. C. Bullock.
 Com. Ex. Rel., vs. Daniel Bartges, Exr., et al.
 Use of Linnie Bumer vs. Wm. H. Blairs, Admr.
 Delores R. deCassanova, Gnd. vs. E. C. deVillaverde.

Mary V. Hale, et al vs. Central R. R. Co., of Penna.

Lehigh Valley Coal Co., vs. Anthony S. Mayes.
 Mary C. Treaster vs. J. W. Mitterling, Adm'r.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

George L. Potter Post, No 561, of Milesburg held a very enjoyable camp fire and installation of officers on Saturday evening, Jan. 1st, in the Methodist church.

Gen. John I. Curtin, of Bellefonte, made a very excellent installing officer. He is a member of Post No. 95, G. A. R. of this place. The following officers were installed: Commander—S. K. Watson; (this is Mr. Watson's 3rd term). Senior Vice Commander—A. S. Smith; Chaplain—Thomas Wilson, (for his 6th term); Quartermaster—W. H. Musser, (5th term); Officer of the day—W. H. Shultz; Officer of the Guard—Thomas Watson. A camp fire and literary entertainment followed. The Bierly brothers' orchestra was present and rendered some beautiful music which was highly appreciated.

The main address of the evening was made by comrade Charles Eise, of Post 261. Other fine addresses were made by Clement Dale, Esq., and by Samuel B. Miller, Commander elect, of Gregg Post, No 95.

Married on Xmas.

Mr. Louis Raymond Morgan, of State College, and Miss Emma Nora Kuhn, were married at Centre Hall, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Sylvester W. Smith, on Christmas. At its conclusion the happy couple started on a wedding tour. Mr. Morgan is now assistant post master at State College. They have announced to their friends that they will be at home after January 1st, at State College.

Child Lawyer.

Kansas comes to the front with a lawyer only seven years old, Bryant Gilbert, a son of J. G. W. Gilbert, a lawyer of Aichison. The Illinois lawyer was subjected to a severe examination by the Kansas Supreme court Tuesday afternoon. He successfully passed the examination and a certificate was awarded to him.

Local Institute.

A local institute of teachers in Walker, Benner, Bellefonte, and Spring townships will be held in the M. E. church at Pleasant Gap, on Saturday January 15th. Two sessions will be held, commencing 9 a. m. and 2 p. m. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

The Rvin House.

Hon. S. Woods Caldwell has again taken charge of the Rvin House, at Lock Haven, and is receiving the guests as proprietor of that popular hotel. It seems that Mr. Caldwell cannot stay out of the business.

STARTLING FACTS ABOUT PENSIONS

The Records Indicate Wholesale Impositions

MANY PENSIONERS ALARMED

Great Scandals About the Pension Department—What the Official Reports Show—Facts and Figures That Demand Serious Attention—Applications Increasing.

The records of the War Department have most carefully preserved the record of every soldier who enlisted in the United States service for any period during our civil war.

Of those who rendered service as soldiers mustered into the service of the United States, the records show that there are 727,122 now living.

The records also show that there are now 733,527 drawing pensions as surviving soldiers who were mustered into the service and served during the war.

In addition to the number of surviving soldiers who are drawing pensions, there are applications pending in the Pension Office from 187,500 persons claiming to be surviving veterans who rendered service during the war.

Thus we have 6,405 more pensioners on the roll to-day than there are actual survivors of the soldiers who rendered service during the war, exclusive of widows, parents and orphans, and in addition there are pending applications for 187,500 who claim to have rendered actual military services and demand pensions.

These figures are taken from the official report of the Pension Commissioners, and may be accepted as reliable.

The same official report shows that there are 213,352 widows of soldiers who are drawing pensions, and 104,938 whose applications as widows of soldiers are pending in the department.

In addition to the foregoing there are 255,849 of the present pensioners who have claims pending for an increase of the pensions they now receive.

With only 727,122 actual surviving soldiers of the civil war, the pensions now granted to all classes of rebellion pensioners, and those demanding pensions, aggregate the appalling number of 1,139,317, being many more than ever were in the Union army at any time during the war.

Is it surprising that the pension scandal has become a stench in the nostrils of every honest citizen? Does not every honest pensioner appreciate the fact that unless there shall be a thorough revision of our whole pension system, there must be serious danger of a sweeping revocation against pensions that may strike far beyond the lines of justice?—Times.

A TOUGH YARN.

J. W. Fesler, who lives north of Morgantown, Ind., has a barn which threatens to develop into a "skyscraper." In 1891, having need of a new barn, he built a small structure, and in its construction he used green willow posts at the corners and along the sides. These he sunk in the ground in the usual manner. For some time nothing unusual was noticed, but after a year he saw that whereas he laid the floor near the ground, it was now three feet above the soil. On examination he discovered that the willow posts, instead of being dead, as he supposed they were on putting them in, were in reality alive and had taken root and were growing. In their upward movement they carried the barn along, relates the Chicago "Chronicle." He watched this with interest month by month and year by year. Of course he had to build another barn, for it was inconvenient to use the constantly rising structure.

Last year the first barn was on stilts nine feet high, and in August he put in a new floor and surrounded the posts with siding, thereby making it a two-story affair. There is now a space of seven inches between the new floor and the ground, and Mr. Fesler expects to have a three-story barn in course of time. He has built out-side stairs to the second story. The neighbors come for miles around to see "Fesler's elevator," as they call it.

Cars Will Soon Run.

The Lewisburg, Milton and Watson-town passenger railway company are making arrangements to run cars about January 15. The cars are twenty-eight feet long and are very handsomely furnished.

Steady Work.

The limestone quarries of A. G. Morris, at Salona, have again been started up on full time, with orders sufficient ahead to keep them running 70 hours a day for several months.

—THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT and weekly Pittsburg Post, one year for \$1.50.

A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS.

Mr. G. W. Watson, of Milesburg, who braked on the Snow Shoe train, met with a painful accident, recently. He was standing near the air brake with his arm resting on the wheel, when all at once, the wheel whirled around and twisted his arm all up, breaking it just below the elbow.

Thursday evening the 23th, Miss Maggie Miles, daughter of Ex-County Treasurer John Q. Miles, while walking down High street about half past six, slipped and fell on the icy pavement breaking her right arm.

Friday afternoon the 24th, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haupt was coasting in the alley back of Col. Pruner's home, when Gerbrick & Hale's delivery horse ran off and run over the little fellow, cutting his head and body in a number of places. He was in a critical condition but is getting better rapidly.

On Christmas night Martin Morrison slipped and fell at the corner of John McGinley's cigar store cutting an ugly gash in his forehead and rendering him unconscious for several hours. The wound was painful but not serious.

On Monday the 27th, Joseph Twitmyre, father of Wilbur F. Twitmyre, of this place, while passing from one room to another at his home, fell down a flight of stairs, striking a door at the bottom with his head. He was picked up in an unconscious condition but soon recovered.

When Mrs. F. H. Thomas was coming down the stairs on Sunday morning the 26th, she fell and sprained several muscles in her body, but no bones were broken, although she is suffering a great deal of pain and is confined to her bed since. Mrs. Thomas was alone in the house at the time of the accident.

On Tuesday of last week James Summers was thrown from the wagon and a lump of soft coal fell on him causing internal injuries which confined him to his bed. The accident happened at the Steam Heat works. He is suffering severe pains in his back.

Mrs. Wagner, mother of Mrs. Jack Spangler, fell on the pavement, spraining one of her ankles, and is confined to her bed.

Morris Kelley fell on the icy pavement last week and was confined to his bed in consequence.

Mrs. Brown recently had a fall. She is well advanced in years.

Edward Klinger while working at the scale works had his right eye badly burned by a spark of hot metal. No serious results are apprehended.

AMONG THE SICK.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Z. Kline, during the past two weeks, have been seriously ill. Mr. Kline for years was a sufferer from rheumatism and recently with paralysis. Mrs. Kline is very low with an attack of pneumonia and her condition is alarming.

Rev. Robt. E. Wright, of the Episcopal church, is ill with pneumonia, in Philadelphia, at his home.

Sam. Buck, formerly of Bellefonte, is lying ill with pneumonia at St. John's hospital in Philadelphia.

Mr. James Henderson, living near Bellefonte, is quite ill with consumption.

Fred Scott, of this place, is ill in Pittsburg with pneumonia.

Ham Otto was sick the past two weeks but is much better.

Mrs. M. J. Jackson, mother of Mr. W. F. Reeder, is ill with the gripe.

A NICE COMPLIMENT.

The Baltimore American pays the following compliment to Penna's Executive: "Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania, is one of the best state executives in the country. He looks well after the interests of the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the people have every confidence in him. They have shown this time and again, and stand ready to confer new honors upon him, should the opportunity offer. Yesterday the Governor assumed a new role, but it was one in which he proved as eminently successful as in his management of the state's affairs. He took the part of Santa Claus, and made a regular Christmas garden of the executive mansion at Harrisburg. Nor did the good governor confine his work to members of his own family, but he extended a general invitation to the children of Harrisburg to come and see his Christmas tree and to share in the good things with which it was loaded. And the children responded to his invitation, coming by hundreds to this gubernatorial feast. All had a great time, and Christmas proved a very happy day at the capital of the Keystone state. Pennsylvania is fortunate in having such a governor as General Hastings. Would that there were more men like him sitting in gubernatorial chairs."

Is your trade suffering?