

The Centre Democrat.

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BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 8, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 35.

A NATION'S SHAME! CRIME OF '98!

Incompetency and Red Tape Prove Fatal

THOUSANDS DIE OF FEVER

Peace has Proved More Fatal Than War—The War Department at Fault for Sustaining Polluted Camps, Improper Food for Sick—Sick Men Starved for Proper Food Supplies.

The war with Spain ended on Aug. 12, when the protocol was signed and an armistice proclaimed. There had been one hundred and fourteen days of hostilities but not many days of actual fighting. The records show that 279 American soldiers and sailors were killed in battle. —The war has been over twenty-two days, and during that time more than 500 soldiers have been killed by disease. It is very plain that the death of the majority of them can be laid directly at the door of the officials whose duty it was to afford them that vigilant care and attention which would have saved their lives.

Men have slowly starved to death when there should have been food in abundance, food of the kind they needed, food that was fit for men in their condition, debilitated as they were by sickness.

Many have wasted away with disease when there were no physicians to give them the proper attention and nursing, or when, if the physicians were ready and willing, there were not the medicines that would have driven off the deadly fever and brought the sick and dying back to life and health.

Wounded men have lingered in the agony of a slow death, with no surgeons to relieve their sufferings, with none but their comrades to give them the slightest attention, and these almost as weak and powerless as themselves.

In the 114 days of warfare the number of men wounded on the American side was 1,423. During the twenty-two days of peace more than 5,000 have been stricken by disease, and in the case of a vast majority of them it might have been averted had high officials furnished the proper facilities.

The horrors of peace have crowded out the horrors of war. Let them be contrasted.

HERE IS THE RECORD OF WAR.

Killed in the army	260
Killed in the navy	12
Killed in the marines	7
Wounded in the army	1,400
Wounded in the navy	10
Wounded in the marines	13
Total—279 killed, 1,423 wounded.	

HERE IS THE RECORD OF PEACE.

Dead in camp at Santiago	341
Dead on home-coming troops	95
Dead in camps of recuperation	150
Dead in camps of mobilization	800
Miscellaneous hospitals and homes	700
Total killed by disease (est.)	2,086
Total stricken by disease (est.)	40,000

These are not official figures, but are made up from the best obtainable estimates. Even the War Department is not in a position to give figures of the casualties. It has received only a few reports from the camp commander for the month of August, and the reports are not even completed for the month of July.

The clerks of the department are now hard at work on the lists, and it is expected that within the next few days it will be possible to give the exact number of those that have been killed in battle and those that have died from disease.

Everywhere there is the same story of official neglect or incompetence, blundering that was brutal in its effects; carelessness that was homicidal.

The horrors of peace began when Santiago fell. The strong army that Gen. Shafter led into Southern Cuba was attacked by disease more deadly than ever Maudslowi's bullets had been.

Regiments that had got to war only a few months before with full ranks and with every man in the full flush of youthful strength and vigor were decimated, and it was only when the brigade commanders under Gen. Shafter signed a protest that a move was made to get the men to the North, where there would be some hope of saving their lives.

Yellow fever invaded the camps at Santiago, and had there been any further delay no one can compute how many of the invading army would ever have seen the home land again.

The records show that in the camps at Santiago nearly 350 men died from disease—far more than were killed in all the war with Spain. But these figures shed no light on the vast number into whose systems crept the germs of death that were to kill them off in the days and weeks after they left the Cuban shore.

The full, terrible stories of the charnel

ships that brought the disease racked remnants of the invading army home may never be told. Disconnected parts of these stories have already crept into the public prints, but it may be years before ever the people of this country know completely the terrible sufferings that the brave soldiers endured while on their way from the scenes of war to the camps of recuperation, so called.

TRANSPORTS WERE PEST SHIPS. There was the transport Concho, which was one of the first to arrive from Santiago with a detachment of the troops.

Men died in her crowded bunks and their bodies were carried on deck, where they were left to lie and rot in the blazing sun. The voyage was one of almost inconceivable horror.

The only supply of water had become putrid in the hot Southern climate. There was no ice on board, no clothes, no food, except of the coarsest, no drugs, no medical attendance except that of Dr. Lesser, of the Red Cross Society, and a little band of nurses that accompanied him.

In fifty-eight bunks were crowded one hundred and ninety ill men, and as a result five died and were buried at sea. One more died at Quarantine, in sight of the land he had longed for so long.

The authorities had provided no medical supplies for the voyage except some quinine, camphor and sulphur, although many of the men were suffering from typhoid fever and needed the most delicate nourishment and the most careful medical attention.

The voyage was one of horror. Even the men who were well suffered tortures. There was a lack of doctors, of nurses and of proper food and drink.

But why multiply the horrors of these floating charnel houses? There were similar tortures awaiting the men on shore at the so-called camp of recuperation at Montauk Point.

Camp Wikoff is only 116 miles from New York, yet many men have starved to death there for the lack of food fit for sick men, and this the simple result of maladministration and stupid incompetency.

For weeks the returning soldiers have starved, been crowded, neglected and allowed to die in Camp Wikoff. The Secretary of War himself went there and made an investigation, but it produced no appreciable effects.

Forced by public clamor, President McKinley showed himself at the camp and it now remains to see whether he will make use of the high authority vested in his office to enforce the reforms that are there demanded.

PRESIDENT ON THE GROUND.

The deaths at the camp on Friday were eighteen, bringing the total loss of life at camp of "recuperation" up to eighty-seven. The worst, however, has not yet been told, for there is every likelihood of tremendous epidemic of typhoid in the camp, which would send the death-roll into the thousands.

All summer volunteers have been dying by the hundred at Camp Thomas, in Chickamauga Park, and there has been no relief. The men that went to camp were the pick of the militia organizations of the various States. They thought they were on their way to actual warfare, but they got no further than that camp of peace in the Southern mountains, and there they were herded month after month, with typhoid and other diseases making inroads into their ranks.

When the Government finally decided to abandon the disease-infected camp at Falls Church, Va., the officers there were outspoken in their opinions that the site should never have been selected. There was universal condemnation among them for the board that passed upon the site, and they declared that the War Department should not have persisted in sending troops there for months after the conditions of its lack of conveniences had been known.

Not until after all the regimental wells had been condemned, and it had been shown that pure and healthful water could not be procured in that part of the country, did the War Department awake to the fact that the men were being killed off by fever. Then it was decided to find another site, but that was two months and a half after it had first been shown to the officials at Washington that the place was unfit.

That official delay cost a hundred lives.

And how has all this happened? Who is responsible? Who is to blame for it? There is the President, Commander-in-Chief of the army.

There is the Secretary of War, the responsible head of the military department of the Government.

There are his immediate subordinates, the Surgeon-General, the Commissary-General and the Quartermaster-General.

Their duties are defined by law, and they are looked to to provide for the nation's heroes.

Will they answer the questions of responsibility?

IMPORTANT FALL ELECTIONS

What States Will Elect Governors This Year

NEW CONGRESS SELECTED

Most of the Terms of the U. S. Senators Will Also Expire—The 56th Congress Will Have Great Questions to Consider—New Problems Have Arisen of Grave Importance.

These are the States which will have voted for governor and State officers this year, with the total vote cast in each at the presidential election of 1896:

New York	1,545,996	Georgia	163,091
Penna.	1,194,225	Arkansas	14,387
Texas	544,786	Maine	114,503
Michigan	544,492	Oregon	97,937
Wisconsin	447,411	N. Hamp.	83,670
Mass.	401,748	N. Dakota	82,990
N. Jersey	371,014	S. Carolina	88,807
Minnesota	341,887	Vermont	63,828
Kansas	335,559	R. Island	54,785
Tennessee	321,998	N. Dakota	47,279
California	298,503	Idaho	29,693
Nebraska	244,171	Wyoming	29,863
Alabama	194,572	Nevada	10,315
Colorado	189,620		
Connecticut	174,390	Total	8,119,792

These States, it will be seen, cast much more than one-half of the total vote of 14,071,095 in the Union in 1896. Among them Rhode Island voted in April of this year, Oregon in June and Alabama in August. Arkansas, Vermont and Maine will vote in September, on the 5th, 6th and 12th respectively.

In other States the elections this year will be for officers other than that of the governor, and the vote cast in each at the presidential election of 1896 was:

Illinois	1,099,869	N. Carolina	329,730
Ohio	1,014,222	Florida	46,441
Missouri	674,019	Delaware	31,460
Indiana	657,395	Utah	96,124
Iowa	521,547	Total	4,345,938

Illinois votes for a State treasurer; Ohio, Indiana and Iowa for a secretary of state; Missouri, North Carolina and Florida for a court of appeals or supreme court judge, and Delaware for treasurer and auditor.

Of the 90 United States Senators representing the 45 States, the terms of 30, or two-thirds of the whole number, will expire on March 4, 1899. The 30 States, in each of which the term of one senator expires at that date, are these, and their vote in 1896 is also tabulated:

New York	1,545,996	N. Virginia	201,720
Penna.	1,194,225	Connecticut	174,390
Ohio	1,014,222	Maine	114,503
Missouri	674,019	Utah	96,124
Indiana	657,395	Washington	90,583
Texas	544,786	Mississippi	70,669
Michigan	544,492	Vermont	63,828
Wisconsin	447,411	R. Island	54,785
Mass.	401,748	Montana	53,217
N. Jersey	371,014	N. Dakota	47,279
Minnesota	341,887	Florida	46,441
Kansas	335,559	Delaware	31,460
California	298,503	Wyoming	29,863
Nebraska	244,171	Nevada	10,315
Alabama	194,572		
Maryland	189,620	Total	10,189,210
Nebraska	244,171		

A few of these States, notably Maryland, Ohio and Rhode Island, have already held their senatorial elections. It will be observed that this list includes all the most populous States of the Union, with the exception of Illinois, Kentucky and Iowa, and indicates the vast National importance of the state elections yet to be held. Moreover, throughout the Union the members of the next Congress are to be elected, except in the few States where they have been elected already.

The composition of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Congress depends upon those elections, and consequently the voters will necessarily be most impressed with the responsibility of dealing with the great National questions growing out of the war. In New York, specifically, the governor and lieutenant-governor and the minor State officers, usually elected in alternate years, are all to be voted for this year; all members of the Legislature in both branches and members of Congress are to be elected.

It will be the last general congressional election before the presidential election of 1900 and the last held subject to the National census of 1890. Never since this Government was founded has there been an appeal to the judgment of the people of greater consequence. The future of this great republic depends upon that election. No questions which are relatively of any importance enter into the election anywhere except those affecting the National destiny.—New York Sun.

Large Attendance.

Five thousand people are said to have been in attendance at the Brush valley camp meeting on Sunday 26. From six a. m. until 12 noon, 48 two horse spring wagons, 18 two horse carriages, 13 one horse carriages, 295 one and two horse vehicles, 3 road carts, 190 bicycles, 8 of which were lady cyclists, 13 large hacks and over 100 people on foot passed through Millheim to the meeting.

James Scarlett the Nomine.

James Scarlett, of Montour county, is the Republican nominee of the Twenty-sixth judicial district. The nomination was made unanimous at an adjourned meeting of the conference held at Berwick on Tuesday of last week. [Mr. Scarlett is a brother of Mrs. Wm. Lyon, of Bellefonte.]

AT MILL HALL NEXT YEAR.

Knights of the Golden Eagle District Convention to be Held There.

At the eleventh annual meeting of the Susquehanna district association Knights of the Golden Eagle in Williamsport Monday Mill Hall was chosen as the place of meeting next year. The meeting of the association Monday was held in the rooms of Lycoming Castle N. 123. Delegates were present from Clinton, Lycoming, Northumberland and Union counties. There were only about forty delegates present and the business transacted was entirely routine.

The following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: President, H. D. Loveland; of Lamar; Secretary, J. B. Miller; of Lamar; Treasurer, I. D. Gresh, of Milton.

WM. C. HEINLE FOR SENATE

Nominated At Lock Haven on Wednesday Evening.

15 BALLOTS WERE TAKEN

The Conferees From Clearfield County Finally Voted For Heinle—A Deserving Democrat—Congressional Conference to be Held September 17th at Ridgeway.

On Wednesday the senatorial conference, for this district, comprising the counties of Centre, Clearfield and Clinton, convened at the Fallon House in Lock Haven. The following were the candidates: Centre, W. C. Heinle;



WILLIAM C. HEINLE, ESQ.

Aged Bridegroom Disobeyed.

Andrew Garner, an aged Tyrone bridegroom, who disobeyed an injunction issued to prohibit him from entering into a matrimonial alliance with Miss Sarah Ellen Grafius, pending an examination into his mental condition, was fined \$100 and costs by Judge Bell Monday morning for contempt of court.

Mr. Garner and his fiancée were married in Huntingdon county, after the Court's injunction had been served upon them. A commission last week duly adjudged Garner to be of sound mind and an eligible candidate for matrimonial honors. The injunction had been sued out by Garner's children.

How Slang Expresses It.

The editor of an exchange has discovered that there is a wide difference between the school books of the present and those of long ago. He says that when he first went to school he read his lesson something like this: "See the cow. Is not the cow nice? Can the cow run? Yes, the cow can run. Can the cow run as fast as a horse?" But the later up-to-date style of reading it by the average kid is as follows: "Get onto the cow. Hain't she a beauty? Sure she is a corker. Can the cow get a move on herself. Can she hum life de boss?"

A Swipe.

The last issue of the "Patron" gives some of our lawyers a swipe in the following comment:

It is related that the lawyers who did the speaking at the recent Farmers' Institute held on Grauge Park, said a good many excellent things, that everybody knew, (some having learned by actual experience) but those who attended expecting to hear something new were sadly disappointed. But who could have expected more?

A Phillipsburg Soldier Dead.

Henry L. Schleiter, of Company I, Fifth Pennsylvania volunteers, who was brought from Chickamauga on the State hospital train and whose condition proved so serious that they were compelled to remove him from the train at Pittsburgh, died Saturday in the Western Pennsylvania hospital in that city, a victim of typhoid fever. His home was in Phillipsburg Centre county. He was 25 years of age.

—Messrs Frank Bohn, of Lemont; Jonas Dinges, the druggist, of Boalsburg; and Wm. Bohn, of Aaronburg, were pleasant callers this Thursday morning.

CAMPAIGN RATES

The Centre Democrat will be sent to any new address in Centre county, for

5 Cts a Month

N. B.—No subscriptions will be received at this rate after the election, or for less than THREE or more than SIX months.

EXCELLENT RECORD.

In reviewing the work of the Federal navy during the war the department officials find that 119 ships and 15,500 enlisted men have been added to the service since the outbreak of hostilities. Not a single ship has been lost from the naval list since the Maine sank in Havana harbor, and in the various battles and engagements of our war vessels there have been but fifteen officers and men killed and forty-three wounded—an amazingly small number when it is considered that more than 28,000 men were engaged in active duty in the navy. The enemy, on the contrary, sustained enormous losses in both ships and men. The guns supplied to our auxiliary vessels, ranging from 6-inch rapid-fire to 1-pounders, numbered 540; and, in addition, new batteries were supplied for the cruisers Chicago, Yorktown and Atlanta, and many new guns were issued to ships already in commission.

Spring Township Teachers.

The following is a list of the teachers selected for the schools of Spring township, for the coming term of six months, commencing Sept. 25:

Pleasant Hill—Grammar, Thos. Barnhart; Primary, Miss Lena Baum. Coleville—Grammar, Wm. H. Ott; Intermediate, James Cori; Primary, Miss Bella Barnhart. Valentines Forge—Grammar, Wm. Chambers; Primary, Miss Georgiana Steele. Yocums—Grammar, Miss Bertha Davidson; Primary, E. R. Owens. Oak Grove—J. F. Harrison. Fishing Creek—Harry Gentzel. Gentzels—Samuel Brooks. Weavers—Harry Hartsock. Axemann—Grammar, H. G. Mease; Primary, J. Clyde Jodon. Pleasant Gap—Grammar, Wm. C. Smeltzer; Primary, Roy Bell. Horntown—Ambrose Sloteman. Mountain—Homer Gentzel.

A Howard Man Injured.

A serious accident occurred at Mill Hall Thursday afternoon by which Nathaniel Pletcher, of Howard, was severely injured. Mr. Pletcher has the contract for building a bridge for the turnpike company, at Mill Hall and while in the act of rolling a piece of timber with a canthook he was precipitated down the bank of the creek, a distance of 14 feet. When picked up by his fellow workmen it was found that his right wrist was broken, right elbow dislocated and there was a bad cut on one of his legs. The injured man was taken to the home of Michael Doebler and from there to the Willet house. Surgical attention was given him and he was made as comfortable as possible.

He Bets With the Landlord.

One of the latest swindling tricks is operated by the men, one of rustic appearance and the other stylishly dressed. The rustic goes into a hotel and inquires for the other fellow, saying that he had loaned him \$50 a few days ago and was to meet him at the hotel to get it back. The landlord laughs and plainly states that the fellow who borrowed the \$50 is a swindler and will not turn up. The other fellow is confident that he will get his money back and bets the landlord \$25 to that effect. In a short time the well dressed man calls for the rustic, pays him his \$50 and, pocketing the landlord's \$25, the pair of strangers disappear.

Building Along.

The following buildings are being put up at Centre Hall:
Merchant G. O. Benner is erecting a new dwelling on the southern end of the borough. Dr. G. W. Hosterman purchased a lot on the opposite side of the street from the Presbyterian church. This fall yet he will begin the erection of a residence to be occupied by himself. The new creamery building at the station is being slowly pushed along. Clem Luse has masons at work on his new house.

Large Government Contract.

The Watsontown Boot and Shoe company are just advised that they have been awarded a contract for fifteen thousand pairs of cavalry boots for the United States government. They must be hand-made and consequently the work means a great amount of labor. It was only a week ago that this same company were given a contract for twenty-five thousand pairs of shoes, also for the government.

Lecture Course.

The People's Popular Course of entertainments for the coming season will be: Shubert Glee Club, of Chicago; Ariel Sextett, famous Smith Sisters; Ward Beecher Richard, lecture; Boston Ladies Military band; Ed. H. Fry, Boston's favorite; J. J. Lewis, Canadian Rockies; The Eldridge Novelty Co.; Chas. H. Fraser. Call in at Montgomery's store and add your name to the list.

CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE.

The following appeared in the Pittsburg Post on Monday: "The democratic congressional conference of the Twenty-eighth district, composed of the counties of Centre, Clearfield, Clarion, Elk and Forest, will be held at Ridgeway, September 17. Though there are four candidates in the field for the nomination, the contest seems to be between J. K. P. Hall, of Elk, and Colonel J. L. Spangler, of this place. Clearfield county is endeavoring to force the nomination of Hall, but that gentleman is not inclined to be entitled to another nomination. The democrats feel confident that they will carry the district this fall.

—CAMPAIGN RATE—5 cents a month, for not less than 3 or more than 6 months, in Centre county.