

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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GETTING AT THE TRUTH

Secretary Alger Hears Some Plain Talk at Lexington

HORSE-DOCTOR FOR THE SICK

Quartermasters Lee and Ludington Accused to Their Faces.—The Soldiers Were Worked to Death by Excessive Drills.—Gen. Beaver on the Commission.

There was a stormy scene in Inspector General Breckenridge's tent at Lexington, Ky., on 21st, when Secretary Alger, Quartermaster General Ludington and Sergeant General Sternberg heard some plain talk regarding the great mismanagement of camps, which has caused so much suffering.

General Sanger and Wiley were the men who had the courage to tell the secretary of war of the abuses they had witnessed.

The discussion began over hospitals and the talk soon grew heated. General Sanger began by saying there was rottenness in the management of both the departments of the quartermaster general and surgeon general. Looking at Secretary Alger, he said:

"Sir—Your chief cook and bottle washer at Chickamauga, I refer to Dr. Huidekoper, was nothing, but the very rankest sort of a veterinary surgeon and did not know the word 'disinfectant.'"

"I issued order after order for materials and medicines, and could not get them."

General Wiley then began to talk. He said:

"The neglect to furnish supplies, gentlemen, was criminal. I frequently made requisitions which were not honored. An imperative order had been sent to us to have all water boiled. Now you can't boil water, Mr. Secretary, without boilers, and I made a requisition on Quartermaster General Lee for water boilers. No attention was paid to this. Failing to get any reply to my repeated telegrams, I sent him a 'sassy' message, and I received a prompt reply, which read: 'The war department does not furnish water boilers.' I bought them myself, but much valuable time had been lost, the seeds of disease had been sowed, and Mr. Secretary, you have seen the results of this criminal negligence in the large death reports which have been sent out from every camp in this broad land. These men in the quartermaster's department can stand off and say it was somebody else's fault. It was the fault of Quartermaster Lee, and it was the fault of Quartermaster Ludington, who is standing right there."

Gen. Wiley also declared that the men were worked to death at Chickamauga, and drilled from five to six hours in the hot sun. When they fell there was no stretchers or litter bearers to carry them away, nor were there any ambulances on hand in hundreds of cases, and the poor fellows were forced to lie in the boiling sun without attention.

QUAY'S GREAT ARMY SERVICE.

Doctor Huidekoper, horse doctor, surgeon in the army! The doctor's appointment is credited to Philadelphia, and Senators Quay and Penrose are said to have strongly urged it on the President and secured his appointment, of course testifying to his equipment and capacity for the responsible duties of army surgeon. His papers were such he was made medical director at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, and if he is not largely responsible for the havoc by disease, incapacity and blundering at that dismal graveyard, we would like very much to know who is. The question then comes up, Who is responsible for Huidekoper? Senator Quay, it appears.

Dr. Huidekoper graduated from the school of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, and early in the '70's, a generation ago, he is said to have practiced a short time on human beings. His taste, however, ran to veterinary practice, and his entire professional career has been practically devoted to horses, cats and dogs, and not to human beings. The scene of his professional exploits is set forth in the annexed card, as it read just before the war:

From Monday's Post:

"These gentlemen met at Washington on Saturday to organize. Judge Beaver, of this State, was the last appointment. He is a weak brother, and will do anything that is desirable. Senator Quay gauged him correctly when he sent him this dispatch in the heat of a political campaign: 'Dear Beaver—Don't talk.'"

Fire at Boalsburg.

Early on Tuesday morning fire broke out in John M. Wieland's coach shops at Boalsburg. When discovered the interior of the blacksmith shop was a mass of flames. From there it spread to an adjoining building containing a large supply of seasoned lumber. This also was entirely consumed and so was James Hassen's stable. Some heroic work was done by the citizens in battling with the fire and they succeeded in confining it to these buildings which were entirely consumed with contents.

Mr. Wieland's property was insured, yet his loss will be considerable.

Where Did it Come From?

One day last week a pigeon flew into the barn yard of Elias Snyder, east end of Nittany valley, on one leg of which was an aluminum ring. On the ring were inscribed "N. A. 761." Mr. Snyder took the ring off the bird's leg and is seeking what information he can about the new visitor.

Will Resume Operations.

The axe factory at Lamar, which has been closed for some time, will this week resume operation.

stories of the achievements of the horse doctor at Camp Thomas, where he was placed in supreme charge of an immense new army camp, containing some 40,000 men fresh from civil life.

The value of Senator Quay's services in the late war can no longer be hidden. He gave to the sick and dying soldiers at Camp Thomas and Porto Rico the illustrious practitioner, Huidekoper. The Huidekoper family had been useful to him in politics.

GETTING AT THE TRUTH.

President McKinley has succeeded in securing a commission to investigate the alleged shortcomings of the war department. Eight of its members were at the white house on Saturday, and it is announced that Dr. Phineas S. Conner, of Pennsylvania, and Major General A. C. Cincinnati, is the ninth man. The eight who were at Saturday's meeting are: Major General Grenville M. Dodge, of Iowa; Colonel J. A. Sexton, of Illinois; Captain E. P. Howell, of Georgia; Major General J. M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers of the United States Army; Charles Denby, of Indiana, ex-minister to China; ex-Governor Urban A. Woodbury, of Vermont; ex-Governor James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, and Major General A. McD. McCook, of the army (retired.)

Last week when the reception was given to the soldiers of Company B, Gen. Beaver presided at the meeting. On the platform and in the presence of several thousand hearers he openly declared that he did not believe that the War Department was deficient and that the comfort of the soldiers was neglected. He could not believe it and vindicated his belief by intimating that the newspapers did not tell the truth. That is what he said in substance.

Then he so far forgot himself as to let his political prejudices to gain control of his words. He forgot that he was a member of the State Judiciary and should be out of politics. He forgot that this was a public demonstration, and he displayed gross impropriety in his effort to vindicate the conduct of the War Department. He forgot as a soldier that it was improper to ask a Captain of a company, who is still in commission, to publicly give an opinion or criticism of the efficiency of officers over him. But that was the imposition that Gen. James A. Beaver tried on Wednesday 21st. on Capt. Taylor, who replied that he could only speak as to company B, and as it was his duty to see that they had sufficient food, he believed that he had done his duty and secured it. No questions were asked as to the unhealthy neglect of our sick at the hospitals, where for a long time the only food was the coarse army rations, and the brutal treatment of our unfortunate sick by incompetent young doctors and thugs who acted as nurses.

Capt. Taylor was not asked about these rank abuses, by General Beaver, who no doubt carefully avoided it. Capt. Taylor, if he dared or any of the members of the company, no doubt could have told him harrowing tales.

The President had great difficulty in securing this commission, and no doubt the General's action here was made known and that secured his appointment. If the other members of the commission are not better balanced and more deliberate and consistent, their report will certainly be composed of white-wash which seems to be the desire of the President, and so badly needed by the disgraced Alger who never succeeded in anything except running saw mills.

ARNOLD WAS RENOMINATED

For Congress at Ridgeway, Last Thursday—It Was Not Unanimous.

The Ridgeway Star, the leading republican paper of Elk county, contains the following account of the republican congressional conference that met at that place last Thursday and renominated Wm. C. Arnold:

Willie Can't-get-there-this-trip Arnold, of DuBois, was nominated for Congress in the 25th district at the New Hyde Ridgeway, on Thursday night, receiving twelve votes, to three for Delos Dolliver, the Elk county candidate.

OSBORNE NOMINATED.

On Tuesday evening the Republican Senatorial conference, in session at Philipsburg, after taking almost one

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CANDIDATES NOMINATED

Result of Three Conferences The Past Week

J. K. P. HALL FOR CONGRESS

Arnold Renominated for a Third Term. He Will Never Get—W. A. Osborne, for State Senate—Democratic Success is Promising in the District—Hall a Strong Man.

Last Thursday the Democratic Congressional conference was held at DuBois, and it resulted in the unanimous selection of Hon. James K. P. Hall, of Elk county.

The conference assembled in the parlors of Commercial hotel, Thursday afternoon. Organization was made permanent by electing Dr. Bowman president and Chas. R. Kurtz, of Centre, and A. S. Down, Clearfield, secretaries.

The roll of delegates was then made up as follows:

Centre—P. J. McDonald, A. B. Hurd and Charles R. Kurtz.

Clarion—John S. Shirley, O. C. Neeley and J. T. Reinsel.

Clearfield—B. W. McCracken, J. K. Seyler and A. S. Brown.

Elk—G. C. Simons, Thos. B. Gillouly and C. J. Dill.

Forest—L. D. Bowman, Eli Berlin and E. L. Gorman.

Next was the naming of candidates which were presented as follows: Centre—Col. J. L. Spangler; Clarion—Capt. A. J. Davis; Clearfield—Singleton Bell, Elk—No nomination; Forest—T. J. Bowman.

The first ballot Col. Spangler received six votes and the other candidates three each—Elk's conferees voting for Spangler. Conference adjourned. At 11 p. m. the second session was called and five more ballots taken without any material change. At this juncture Col. Spangler asked to address the conference. He said he came to this conference for the purpose of putting in nomination a candidate who would be able to poll the largest vote in the district this year. For that reason he was not satisfied that his name should be placed on the ticket, although there was abundant assurance that the nomination could be secured. Owing to business relations and personal reasons he had concluded to withdraw his name from the consideration of the conference and thanked them for the kindly consideration shown him. In conclusion he frankly stated that in his opinion the conference should nominate James K. P. Hall, of Elk, and asked the conferees from Centre and other districts to give this suggestion due consideration. Col. Spangler's remarks were heartily applauded. Following him Clearfield, Clarion and Forest candidates likewise withdrew. The Centre county conferees made the request that James K. P. Hall be the unanimous choice of the conference as the democratic nominee for Congress; carried without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Hall was called upon and made a brief address that aroused much enthusiasm, in which he thanked the democrats for this honor and promised his best efforts to redeem the district in November. He was followed by other prominent democrats and the conference was adjourned with the most friendly feeling among all assembled and with the most favorable promises of victory in November.

In a later issue we expect to publish a portrait and biography of the nominee who by no means is a stranger to the voters of Centre county, for he was on our Congressional ticket in 1886. Mr. Hall will poll an immense vote in counties adjoining his home, where he is intimately and personally known to the public.

Many of our readers no doubt are disappointed that Col. Spangler was not the nominee, and are anxious to know why it was different. The situation was simple. At no time was Col. Spangler seriously seeking the nomination. It was within his grasp, for the support of Elk was with him and Forest only was needed, and they would have voted for Col. Spangler had he asked the nomination. It was Col. Spangler's request that Hall accept and be the candidate.

OSBORNE NOMINATED.

On Tuesday evening the Republican Senatorial conference, in session at Philipsburg, after taking almost one

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as though oiled with Frazer's axle grease.

The nominee starts out in his fight for re-election with the cheering assurance that the conferees who nominated him also refused to endorse the National administration or even permit resolutions commending the Chief Executive to be read.

The Congressman arrived in Ridgeway on the afternoon train from DuBois, and was at once closeted with his chief and almost only lieutenant in this county, who holds a federal appointment by virtue of the recommendation of Willie C.

It is asserted that the lieutenant, with his usual ignorance of the true sentiment in this county, painted in glowing terms the cinch he had on the voters of the county, and Brother Arnold felt better, took a drink—of water—and immediately announced that he was in the hands of his friends.

Arnold dispatched one of his henchmen to the Elk county conferees and wanted to know if one of their number wouldn't like to be secretary of the conference. But Elk county was not looking for honors on this occasion and preferred to have its conferees with their hands free to do as they pleased. The solicitude of the Centre and Clearfield conferees for the Elk county contingent was pathetic in the extreme, but the latter knew the true sentiment of the county and the wish of the people thereof, and refused to be jollied.

The conference convened at about 9 o'clock and was called to order by J. H. McEwin, of DuBois, while the Elk and Forest county conferees were absent, but the first named contingent were within hearing distance, and got there in due season.

Nominations being in order, Mr. Crissman, of Centre, presented the name of W. C. Arnold, of DuBois. Mr. Crissman made a good speech, considering the material he had to work upon. C. A. Randall named A. Wayne Cook, of Forest county, and H. A. Parsons, Jr., of St. Marys, made a really eloquent plea for the nomination of Elk county's favorite son, Delos Dolliver, of Ridgeway. He stated that the candidate whose name he presented never forgot a pledge and was honest, sober, tried and true. He spoke of Dolliver's popularity and the fact that he could poll more Democratic votes than any man in the district.

Mr. Parsons made the longest speech in the conference and by all odds the best, surprising his friends by his clean cut diction and eloquent word painting.

Mr. McEwin seconded Mr. Arnold's nomination and Mr. Wessel that of Mr. Dolliver. Before a ballot was taken Mr. Cook's name was withdrawn. The vote resulted in the selection of the present "encumbrance," every county in the conference voting for him, except Elk. Immediately on the announcement of the result, Mr. McEwin moved an adjournment, but met with considerable opposition, and after a wait of several minutes some one suggested that Mr. Arnold make a few remarks. Then a bright idea struck another conferee and he moved that the nomination be made unanimous, which was NOT done, although the chairman stated that it was, when three hearty "noes" were recorded against it. It is necessary to state that the "noes" came from Elk county conferees.

Again Mr. Arnold was importuned to say a few words, and he did. His "health" was in excellent condition and he pushed back his chair and stood unsupported. He prefaced his remarks by stating that the three big counties in the district were for him, and incidentally pocketed fun at Elk because it did not have the population of his own county of Clearfield.

"The three biggest counties in the district are for me," said the speaker, and Elk county can go to grass; I don't need it, or words to that effect. "I have no apologies to make for anything I have done or left undone," asserted Mr. Arnold. (Union Pacific railroad speech and vote, slandering the President, disreputable postoffice appointments, lying pledges without number, etc., presumably included.)

His entire speech was the silliest, sloppiest mess of twaddle ever perpetrated on an innocent and unsuspecting set of delegates.

Nowhere in the proceedings, or at any stage of the game, was the President mentioned, the State ticket endorsed or the usual concomitants of a gathering of this character indulged in.

Mr. Arnold therefore stands squarely on a platform of opposition to the President, and his policy, is not ashamed of his disreputable record, glories in it, and doesn't ask for anything from Elk county. His overwhelming defeat is merely a question of numbers.

OSBORNE NOMINATED.

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A PROMINENT CONTRACTOR

One of Bellefonte's Famous Men Passes Away

DEATH OF THOMAS COLLINS

At His Home Early on Last Sunday Morning Sketch of an Interesting Man—Remains Taken to Ebensburg for Interment on Tuesday—One of a Famous Family.

Thomas Collins, the veteran railroad contractor, and one of the best known men in the country, died at his home near Bellefonte, at fifteen minutes past 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Mr. Collins was conscious up until death. His illness was of just two week's duration. An obstruction in the large artery of the left limb caused gangrene and consequent blood poisoning, and though everything possible was done by the physicians in attendance it was without avail. Mr. Collins was a member of the Roman Catholic church and funeral services were held here Tuesday morning, the body then taken to Ebensburg for interment in the family burying lot. Deceased was 75 years old last March.

Thomas Collins was born in Munster, Cambria county, his parents emigrating to that locality from Ireland about eighty years ago.

Shortly after the birth of Thomas the family moved to Ebensburg, and that place has been regarded as the home of the Collinses ever since.

Little of moment occurred during the early life of Thomas Collins. He found employment at whatever there was to do, finally learning the trade of an engineer. Inventive genius and the march of progress in the early part of the present century opened up a field for broad-gauge and pushing men, and the Collinses, equal to the emergency, began their career as railroad contractors, which they followed all their lives with varying success, and which won for them the renown of being the largest and best known railroad contractors in the country.

The six brothers formed a co-partnership, and with the "Big Three," Philip, Thomas and Peter, who were thus styled because of their immense stature, each man standing over six feet in his stockings, always in the lead, sought fortune through honest toil. Their first contract was the building of the old Portage road for the Pennsylvania Railroad company, which undertaking was pushed to a successful completion and opened for traffic in 1849.

For many years these men confined their work entirely to and for the Pennsylvania Railroad company. From the old Portage road they built the Philadelphia and Erie, part of the Pittsburgh division of the main line, including the big tunnel at Gallitzin, the Ebensburg branch, Tyrone and Clearfield, and numerous smaller side lines.

The celebrated Sand Patch tunnel, near Cumberland, was one of their greatest and most successful undertakings. Hundreds of thousands of dollars had been spent and many prominent contractors lost fortunes in their attempts to build it before the Collinses took charge and brought the enterprise to a successful completion. From the Pennsylvania company their work was extended and they afterward completed large contracts for the Philadelphia and Reading, the Lehigh Valley, Jersey Central, built part of the West Penn., had a large contract of the Southern Pennsylvania, constructed most of the Beech Creek and a good part of the Lewisburg and Tyrone, as well as many private roads.

In their work as contractors the Collins brothers, Philip, Thomas and Peter, made and lost several large fortunes, but the most disastrous blow was met with in South America. Early in 1877 the Big three secured the contract from the English government for building of the Madeira and Mamore railroad, in Brazil. With a cargo of supplies, railroad iron and several hundred workmen they left Philadelphia on the Metropolitan, a vessel chartered for their use, about the middle of the summer. When off Cape Hatteras the vessel encountered a hurricane and was wrecked, going to the bottom with everything on board, few of the workmen and crew escaping to tell the tale of horror. By a merciful Providence the Collinses escaped, and nothing daunted by the severe loss sustained in the destruction of their vessel, the Collinses at once set about to carry out their contract. The Richmond, another large vessel, was chartered, and with another load of supplies and 437 workmen on board, departure for the south was made late in the fall of 1877.

One year or more was spent in the tropics of Brazil, a year depicted as one of untold sufferings by all. The work was being pushed as rapidly as possible, when the English government refused

payment and the Collins quit work. Rich men when they went south, they came home penniless. Every cent they possessed was devoted to meeting the obligations entailed in this undertaking. On their return to the United States Thomas Collins went to England and there instituted proceedings against the government in an effort to recover for the work done, but his efforts proved futile.

Broken in health and peniless, they were not completely discouraged, but at once went to work and in a short time were again engaged in filling large railroad contracts in this country, and in a measure retrieving their fallen fortunes. In 1886 the Collins brothers came to Bellefonte and began the construction of the Buffalo Run railroad, a short branch designed to open up new iron ore deposits, and owned entirely by themselves. Late in the same year they purchased a tract of land near town and thereon erected a large blast furnace. The furnace was blown in during the winter 1887-88 and continued in operation about three years, when, because of the low price of iron, it was closed down. In this investment the Collins again lost money. From the time they came to Bellefonte in 1886 Thomas made the place his permanent home with his sisters Elizabeth and Sarah. The next railroad contract and the last of any consequence in which Thomas Collins figured prominently was the building of the Glenn Falls, N. Y., branch of the Lehigh Valley a few years ago. In 1896 Thomas Collins built the large Kittanning Point reservoir for the city of Altoona.

As a firm the Collins have been justly termed the kings of contractors, and it has been their boast that during their lives they have built more miles of railroad than any other firm in the United States.

Though railroad building was the chief object in the lives of the Collins brothers, their thoughts at times turned in other directions. The establishment of the Philadelphia Times was the original idea of Thomas Collins. In 1871 he decided to enter the field of journalism and with his brother Philip started the Times as a penny paper. The venture did not prove the success anticipated and a few months experience convinced them that something different must be done. The result was that the McLaughlin brothers were taken into the firm, the paper improved and increased in size and the price advanced to two cents. A year or so later Colonel A. K. McClure and Ex-Governor A. G. Curtin also took an interest in The Times. Journalism, however, was not the field for Thomas Collins and he soon sold out his interest and devoted himself to his work as a contractor.

Politically the Collinses all have been democrats, but as a politician Thomas Collins figured more prominently, perhaps, than any of his brothers. While residing in Schuylkill county he was elected to the legislature, serving in the session of 1857-58. He was a national delegate to the Chicago convention which nominated Cleveland in 1892, and it was at this convention and before the state delegation that Mr. Collins made the famous observation, "While I'm not much of an orator, I'm hell on short sentences." In 1896 he was nominated by the reconvened democratic state convention for congressman-at-large, but suffered defeat with the rest of the ticket at the November election. Though his active appearance in political life is embodied in the above, Thomas Collins was always a true-blue democrat of the Jeffersonian type. He was prominent in most of the local and state political councils, and his advice was universally considered the very pith of wisdom. He was also a liberal contributor for campaign purposes, as well as a hard worker for the success of his party ticket. In politics, as in everything else, Thomas Collins was a man who never shrank defeat.

Socially, he was esteemed by all who knew him. Of gigantic stature and commanding figure, he was a man quick to attract, and once known never to be forgotten. Liberal and broad-minded, with charity for all, he enlisted every acquaintance as a friend, and had few, if any, enemies. As a man, he was unusually modest, rarely talking of himself or his achievements. For a man who has been so prominently before the public all his life, there is less known about Thomas Collins than any man in the country. He was married early in life to Miss Ellen Murray, of Harrisburg, who died some twelve or fifteen years ago. They had no children. Mr. Collins was aged about 75 years, but possessed of such wonderful vitality that up until the time of his recent illness he did not look to be near that age. He is the last but one of the six brothers to pass across the silent river. Surviving him are Peter Collins, of Philadelphia, and the sisters, Mrs. Ellen Shoemaker and Misses Elizabeth and Sarah Collins, all of Bellefonte. Though his life was filled with the fluctuations of fortune, Mr. Collins was possessed of considerable of this world's goods at his death.

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N. Y. College of Veterinary Surgeons
NEW YORK.

Rates of Board:

Horses, per day.....	\$1.50
Dogs, per day.....	50
Cats, per day.....	50

Baths for dogs:

Small dogs.....	50
Large and long-haired dogs.....	1.00

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Professional charges according to nature of the case.

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DR. H. D. GILL.

(The above business card appeared in an editorial in Sunday's Pittsburgh Post. It seems almost incredible yet it has not been disproven.)

The army surgeons who will not be called to testify before President McKinley's commissioners tell many queer