

The Centre Democrat.

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BUSINESS BOOM FOR BELLEFONTE

The Collins Iron Furnace to Be Put in Operation

SCOTIA ORE MINES SECURED

The Central Railroad of Pennsylvania to Build An Extension to the Collins Furnace—Plant to Be in Operation Before July 4th.

For some time negotiations have been pending for the purpose of purchasing and operating the Bellefonte Furnace, better known as the Collins property at this place. This week we are authorized to say that all plans have been consummated and the furnace is expected to be making iron by or before July 4th.

In 1887 this plant was blown in and was operated for almost three years, when the decline in the price of iron compelled them to shut down in 1890, and it has been quiet ever since. Owing to the recent advance in the iron market it is found that iron can be manufactured at a good profit at this point. Having this in view J. W. Gephart, superintendent of the C. R. R. of Pa., succeeded in interesting a company of capitalists in Philadelphia who have purchased the Collins Furnace and the extensive ore operations of Carnegie & Co., at Scotia, this county, from which place they will secure their principal supply of native ores. Mr. Gephart will be superintendent of this operation and predicts they will be making iron before July 1st.

The purchase of the Scotia ore banks gives them control of some of the best ore fields in the western portion of Centre county. This plant for years was operated by Carnegie & Co. and the product shipped to Pittsburgh where the ore was used as a flux in the large furnaces at that place. Later they secured a supply nearer to Pittsburgh and during the past year the operation has not been running full capacity. The usual monthly payroll was from \$3000 to \$4000 and gave employment to several hundred workmen. In the line of machinery they have the best equipment in the shape of steam shovels and washers for mining and preparing the product for market. The plant will be under the superintendency of Frank Clemson, who had charge of it under Carnegie & Co. In addition to furnishing the ore for the Bellefonte Furnace company they also will supply ore for the Valentine Furnace, which soon will be in full blast. The ore will be shipped over the Penna. railroad via Tyrone to Bellefonte. The Bellefonte Central railroad has its tracks within a mile of Scotia mines and if they would complete the connection the route would be much shorter to haul same down the Buffalo Run valley. In addition to the native ores both furnaces will use a large per cent of the rich lake ores in making iron. Very little repair work will be found necessary to put the Bellefonte Furnace in operation, as all the linings in the ovens, boilers and stacks are in good shape. It has a capacity of over 100 tons per day and will give employment to over a hundred men here.

The Central Railroad of Penna. is now preparing to extend its lines to this furnace and in order to do it they must cross Spring Creek and the Penna. R. R. tracks. To do this they will construct a high iron bridge and overhead track that will cross the Penna. R. R. tracks between the water tank and engine house, passing through the yard of Isaac Mitchell's property across onto the hill, by which they can easily reach the furnace. This connection will require an expensive piece of work, 700 feet of overhead iron girders on iron supports resting on heavy masonry. This part will be furnished by the Phoenix Bridge company, with whom the contract has been placed. Surveyors have been at work the past two weeks locating this connection and the iron work has already been ordered. It is thought that this connection will be finished in about two months.

This has been one of the largest deals in the iron business made in our county in years. It means the steady employment of several hundred more men, which can not fail but restore Bellefonte to her old time prosperity.

LATE RUMORS.

Rumors are afloat that the nail works plant will be converted into a puddling mill for manufacturing bar iron. This has not been verified. It is also said that today in Philadelphia a meeting will be held for determining whether the Central R. R. will be extended to Clearfield and Watsonstown. Capitalists and railroad men have had this project under consideration for some time.

There is also a well-defined rumor that the new company will endeavor to secure control of the Bellefonte Central railroad from this place to State College and Pine Grove Mills, and if this is done, will eventually push the construction of the road through to Scotia and Huntingdon

to connect with the Huntingdon and Broad Top. This would give a short outlet to the south.

FOR HARMONY.

The new Bellefonte Republican, with Wilbur F. Harris as editor and publisher, made its appearance this morning. The paper has some noticeable improvements about it. The salutatory naturally is the most important. The most significant part is the labored effort to impress upon the readers' minds that the enterprise is undertaken for the sake of "harmony," sweet harmony, among the local republican factions in Centre county. Yes, that is true. But peace only will prevail, like when Grant drove General Lee and his disorganized legions to Appomattox then peace only was restored by unconditional surrender. That kind of harmony is hard to swallow, and especially bitter when chucked down your throat.

CONCLUSION OF COURT.

In the case of John Wolf vs. Joseph C. Bierly. Verdict on Thursday afternoon in favor of the plaintiff for \$39.58.

J. V. A. McEntire vs. Israel Runkle, summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. This suit was brought to recover a lot of ground in Haines township at or near Woodward. Terms of settlement were agreed upon by the parties and a verdict was taken in favor of the plaintiff for the land described in the writ, subject to redemption by the defendant upon the payment of ninety dollars to the plaintiff within ninety days, when the plaintiff is required to execute and deliver a deed to the defendant on the Thursday afternoon.

NO NEW TAX THIS YEAR.

Mercantile Appraisers Must Follow Old Law Until 1900.

According to an opinion given by Attorney General Elkin the new mercantile tax law will not be put in force until next year. Under the law there are no exemptions the act reading:

"Each retail vendor or of retail dealer in goods, wares and merchandise shall pay an annual merchandise license tax of two dollars, and all persons so engaged shall pay one mill additional on each dollar of the whole volume gross of business transacted annually. Each wholesale vendor or of wholesale dealer in goods, wares and merchandise shall pay an annual mercantile license tax of \$3, and all persons so engaged shall pay one-half mill additional on each dollar of the whole volume gross of business transacted annually. Each dealer in or vendor of goods, wares or merchandise at any exchange or board of trade shall pay a mercantile license tax of twenty-five cents on each thousand dollars' worth gross of goods so sold.

"And it is provided that all persons who shall sell to dealers in or vendors of goods, wares and merchandise, and to no other person or persons, shall be taken under the provisions of this act to be wholesalers. And all other vendors or dealers in goods, wares and merchandise shall be retailers and shall pay an annual license tax as provided in this act for retailers."

Annual Reports K. G. E.

At the twenty-third annual session of the K. G. E. at Lancaster yesterday the reports of the grand master of records show that during the year the receipts were \$22,562.89; expenditures, \$19,612.18. The balance, \$2,950.71, is an increase over last year of almost \$1,000. The list of subordinate castles at the beginning of the year was 480. During the year 19 charters were surrendered or consolidated. The membership of the order in the state is 38,417. The total amount paid in relief was \$142,704.56.

National Guard Bill.

The new national guard bill, as passed by the late legislature and approved by Governor Stone, has been issued in general orders from the adjutant general's office. Among the many changes from the old bill is the provision for the three battalion organizations, the increase in the rank of the regimental adjutant to captain and demanding a bond from the lieutenants of the line.

A Ball and Chain for Tramps.

Lock Haven promises to be a bad place for tramps. Mayor Elliot has asked that some rigorous measures be taken to rid the city of the troublesome hoboes. The ball and chain plan seems to meet with the most favor and the question will be decided at the next meeting of council.

New Postmaster.

Last week Henry Twitmeier, of Pleasant Gap, was appointed postmaster at that place to succeed J. A. Noll. The location of the office, we understand, will not be changed.

WHITEWASH APPLIED

Indignation Caused by the Beef Court of Inquiry's Report.

CONGRESS MAY INVESTIGATE

May Be Asked for by the Friends of General Miles—The Cattleman Want the Administration to go After the Packers—Public Sentiment With Gen. Miles.

The criticism of Gen. Miles made by the Beef Court of Inquiry for his alleged delay in reporting to the War department the complaints made respecting the beef furnished to the army has aroused a storm of indignation, and there is talk among his friends of the advisability of his urging a Congressional investigation. It is stated that Gen. Miles can readily prove that the Court of Inquiry was not legally constituted and conducted; that any number of flaws in the proceedings of the Court can be picked out, and that by refusing to hear certain witnesses whom Gen. Miles' counsel wanted to bring forward, the Court was guilty of a gross violation of the rules which customarily govern in such cases.

As showing the consideration by the Court of Gen. Miles' request for calling witnesses, it is interesting to note that the number of witnesses called for by the General was 440; number examined of those called for, 104; rejected or failed to subpoena, 336; reports of officers submitted by Gen. Miles, 340; witnesses called and examined by the Court of its own motion, 163. Of the 163 witnesses called by the Court, 20 belonged to the Subsistence department and 13 to the Agricultural department, while 51 were interested in the meat industry.

It is pointed out by Gen. Miles' friends that more than half the witnesses examined by the Court of its own motion were responsible for the character of the beef eaten, and therefore compelled by their own interests to defend it.

NO FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDED.

Out of the evidence which the Court choose to admit, it has formulated a report which finds that the allegations of Gen. Miles to the effect that the refrigerated beef was embalmed or processed are not sustained by the evidence, and that the canned roast beef, of which there was such general complaint, was the ordinary commercial product, often badly handled and exposed to influences of climate and transportation which made it unfit for use, but a wholesome and nutritious food product when properly taken care of and supplied to men who are in good health.

At the same time, after making this finding, the Court does not consider that the War department is called upon to take any further action.

The most of the blame is put upon officers of the army other than Gen. Miles, and especially upon Gen. Eagan's Commissary department for the excessive purchase of canned roast beef, a new and untried ration, and about which there was so much complaint.

The report exonerates the packers completely in specially preparing an inferior article for the use of the troops, and declares that if old cans were occasionally purchased it was due to the lack of proper inspection or to faults in the packing, by which air was admitted through hermetically sealed cans. The Court finds that it would have been impracticable to secure beef on the hoof for the Cuban campaign.

PLAIN CASE OF WHITEWASH.

In fact, the report of the Court "whitewashes" the whole army beef question, and the friends of Gen. Miles contend that the efforts of the Court all along have been to impugn his motive in attacking the beef ration, and to make it appear that he has exaggerated and misrepresented the facts. Three hundred and forty officers support Gen. Miles' allegations. They represent the whole of the regular army in Cuba and Porto Rico, for each officer reports as to himself and his men. It is pointed out also that the canned roast beef issued to the troops sent to the Philippines has been served the same way—thrown away—as was the stuff given to the men who went to Cuba and Porto Rico. Unfortunately, testimony as to this could not be brought into the inquiry just closed. As head of the army, Gen. Miles has done all he could. He has brought forward the men who saw and the soldiers who ate the beef, and the criticism that he delayed in reporting the condition of the beef ration doesn't hold good, for it must be remembered that Gen. Miles was busy with his Porto Rican campaign at the time when it is asserted he should have been telling the War department that unwholesome food was being supplied to the army.

Sentiment and public opinion are with Gen. Miles, and from reports received it is already apparent that there is going to

be a hue and cry until Congress takes hold of the matter. The soldiers from the North, South, East and West who were sickened by the beef ration are not going to tamely submit to the whitewashing process, even if Gen. Miles should be satisfied to let the matter rest.

A NEW GRAND ARMY.

An Association to be Formed by Volunteers of the Late War.

Active interest is being taken everywhere toward the formation of the Spanish-American War Veterans' association started by Wm. Christopher Liller, of Lancaster, state volunteer of the Hospital Corps, United States Army.

A call has been issued by the executive committee, Major General Joseph Wheeler, chairman; Brigadier General J. P. S. Gobin, Col. George M. Studbaker, Major E. C. Davis, Major Russell B. Harrison and William Christopher Liller, secretary, for a convention to be held at Washington, D. C., September 4-6, 1899. This convention will be a reunion of all the volunteers of the late war, and indications point to a large assemblage at the National capital this fall.

Reduced railroad and hotel rates have been secured, and every comfort for the visitors and delegates provided. At this meeting a permanent organization similar to the Grand Army will be perfected. This association provides for the effacement of all sectional feeling and prejudice, the establishment of closer fraternal relations and the corporate effort to secure the enactment of legislation in the interest of soldiers in state and nation, the army and navy generally.

Brigadier General Wiley has charge of the organization in this state, and much headway is being made under his careful leadership.

LOCOMOTIVES FOR ENGLAND.

Baldwins Get a Big Order for Engines From the Great Central.

The reputation of the Baldwin locomotives is spreading among the English railroads, and the recent orders placed with the firm by the Midland and Great Northern railways have just been supplemented with an order for 20 freight engines from the Great Central Railway, of England. Aside from the fact that the facilities of the Baldwin Locomotive Works are such as to enable them to make very much quicker deliveries than the English locomotive builders, there is a growing desire among English railway officials to give American engines a thorough trial and settle for themselves the mooted question of their superiority over the English engine.

Hid the Money in Her Stocking.

Recently a grass widow, Mrs. Mary Kennett, nee Oswald, of Sandy Ridge, went to Bellwood to visit an aunt, named Woomer, who, by the way, is the widow of a soldier. Recently Mrs. Woomer received a pension, and, being greatly elated over it, showed the money to her niece, who, when opportunity presented itself, stole it and hid it away in her stocking, and started for home, Officer Andy Barr, of this place, received word last Monday that the woman had taken the money and left Bellwood on the evening train for Sandy Ridge. Apprehending her at this station and searching her, Mr. Barr found the money where she had deposited it—in her stocking. She was taken back to Bellwood on Altoona accommodation and afterward to Hollidaysburg jail. The amount of money stolen was \$334, all of which was found in the woman's stocking, with the exception of \$4, which she had in her purse.—Tyrone Times.

Struck by Lightning.

W. H. Earon, who was struck by lightning on the Cambridge farm, one mile south of Unionville, Monday of last week is about again. When Mr. Earon saw the storm coming, he left the barn to open the gate for his wife, who was expected home with the horse and buggy. He had gone a short distance from the barn when he was thrown to the ground by a bolt of lightning. His brother-in-law, R. E. Cambridge, who was looking out of the door of the house at the time, saw Mr. Earon stagger and fall. Mr. Cambridge asked the stricken man if he was hurt. Mr. Earon laid his hand on his side below his heart and said "Yes." He was speechless for some time after. He is still suffering from pains in his leg.

Lightning's Deadly Work.

Near Kylertown, a few evenings ago, 14-year-old John Carr was instantly killed by being struck by lightning. The boy was returning to work after supper. The skin was not broken on his body, but the side of his neck and neck was burned into a crisp and also a strip down his right side. His shoes were torn to shreds and pieces were found twenty feet from his body.

The date on the label shows whether it is paid or not. Look at it.

CROP REPORTS IN CENTRE CO.

Peaches Scarce and Other Fruit Somewhat Damaged

WHEAT FIELDS ARE POOR

Were Damaged by the Severe Winter—Different Localities of the County Heard From—Also the United States Government Report for Pennsylvania.

At this time of the year our farmers are interested in the condition of the crops over the county. In response to our request, a number of local correspondents sent in reports this week. We hope those who overlooked this will send in their reports next week without fail. First in the list we give the government's official report for Pennsylvania:

STATE CROP REPORTS.

The climate and crop bulletin of the weather bureau, United States department of agriculture, Pennsylvania section, says for the week ending May 8th, that the general conditions in this section are favorable for good crops along all lines with the exception of peaches. Apple, pears, plums and cherries are reported as blooming well, with good prospects in nearly all parts of the state. With but few exceptions peaches were badly "winter killed" and the crop will be very short.

Pasturage is in good condition but would be much improved by rain. Most of the spring sown grasses are well set and growing nicely. Tobacco plants are well forward and growers are busy preparing the ground.

CENTRE COUNTY REPORTS.

As sent in by our regular correspondents:

JULIAN—The farmers are busy planting corn, or getting the ground ready to do so. The prospects for grain are very promising at present. The indications for fruit looks very good for everything except peaches as not a peach blossom can be seen anywhere.

STORMSTOWN—The farmers in the vicinity of Stormstown are planting corn and potatoes, also clipping sheep. The wheat fields are looking more promising than in the early spring, while the indications of the apple crop are fair, the other fruit crops seem doubtful.

RUNVILLE—The grain crops in this place look middling well, especially where it was protected by the snow, and the meadows give a fair appearance for an immense hay crop. The appearance of the fruit is good, such as apples, cherries, plums and pears; while the peach crop is a failure all through here, on account of the terrible cold winter.

FILLMORE—Apples will not be more than a half crop from present indications. Peaches are all frozen, no blossoms have been seen this spring; plums look favorable so far. The wheat crop will be short. The fields are spotted. The ice that fell on the wheat froze and smothered it. The hay crop looks good for this season of the year.

WALKER—The farmers in this section are busy this week planting their corn; some have finished, but the majority are planting this week. Some of the wheat fields are very promising, while other fields are very poor. Several farmers complain of the worm destroying it, making some of the fields almost bare. We are not able to tell how the fruit crop will be as it is most too soon.

ROCK VIEW—Some of our farmers have finished planting corn, while others have not yet commenced. The prospects for apples through our community is good, but peaches, plums and pears will be a total failure; many of the peach trees are frozen, while the pear and plum trees are badly damaged from the cold weather during the winter.

ROMOLA—The farmers of this section are at present engaged in getting their corn ground in shape or planting. Some have their corn and potatoes already in the ground. The wheat prospects are very good, the rain on Monday helping it a great deal. Peaches are an entire failure in this section as no peach trees blossomed at all. Pears, apples, plums, cherries and strawberries show every indication of being a good crop.

HUBLERSBURG—Some of the farmers are done planting corn, others are busy at it. Oats is coming up very irregularly owing to the dry weather. Some of the wheat fields look very good, while most of them look fairly well. If the weather conditions are favorable from this on, the farmers may expect a fair crop. The grass looks well. Apple and cherry trees blossomed about as usual. Plums and peaches are frozen.

WOLFS STORE—Our farmers are done planting corn, and some are away fishing to-day, (Thursday), while others are repairing fences, etc. The outlook for a heavy harvest is not very bright in this section; some fields look very well while others will not yield half a crop. There will be very little fruit of any kind; about one out of every two apple trees is blooming. No peaches at all. Markets: Butter, 12c; Eggs, 10c; Potatoes, 65-75c.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Printer's Permit.

"May I print a kiss on your cheek?" I asked. She nodded her sweet permission. So we went to press, and I rather guess I printed a large edition.

A Spiritual Joke.

The dead man and the man "dead drunk," Have just this difference, grim. One goes, alas, to fill his bier. The other's beer fills him.

It Knew Its Business.

"Three is a crowd," and they were three. The parlor-lamp, the maid and he; But "two is company," no doubt. That's why the knowing lamp went out.

A fast man easily runs through his money.

As much business is done by cheek as by check.

When the baby is asleep it's a case of kidnapping.

It takes a clever butcher to make odds and ends meat.

Some very hard words can be written with a soft pencil.

The lighter a man's head is the higher he is able to carry it.

A good way for a horse to make his gait fast, "is by bolting."

No man needs a financial standing to enable him to borrow trouble.

People would undoubtedly be more lawless if there were less law.

There is glory in any little thing you do simply from a sense of duty.

A wise man enjoys the little he has while a fool is seeking for more.

Some men with narrow views are rather broad in their conversation.

The man who is down on nonsense isn't necessarily full of wisdom himself.

A strong pull always adds to a man's success, particularly if he is a dentist.

The bill-poster is a shining example of a man making money by sticking at it.

It's a great deal easier to put up with the prodigal son than to put up for him.

Freedom of thought doesn't injure the world half as much as freedom of tongue.

Humanity should be better to-day had our forefathers lived up to their epitaphs.

Some folks who borrow trouble would pay big interest rather than not have it.

Words are like sunbeams—the more they are concentrated the deeper they burn.

The woman who makes a man a good wife incidentally makes him a good husband.

Logic either proves or disproves all things, but it doesn't accomplish any of them.

The man who drinks to stimulate his appetite stimulates his appetite for drinks.

Size is no criterion of strength. A small onion may be stronger than a big squash.

It's a fowl trick for Nature to make a pigeon-toed, duck-legged man chicken-hearted.

In bear hunting, as in poker, a fellow feels safe as long as he keeps ahead of the game.

A great many persons who are considered light-hearted are in reality only light-headed.

Some women who have lost their husbands act as joyful as though they had merely mislaid them.

The people who applaud brevity are often those who want a chance to say a good deal themselves.

Men hope to have in eternity what they might have here if they only scrambled around lively enough.

The English who are buying stock in Barnum's circus will have something to show for their money.

Cats, unlike politicians, give voice to the most decided utterances while in the dark and on the fence.

A man may say that all men are equal, but thinks himself a little better than his neighbor just the same.

One swallow may not make a summer, but a single grasshopper finds little difficulty in making a spring.

As a rule we have only words of praise for the dead. Our stock of censure is exhausted on them while alive.

Horace Greeley once said: "If our foresight was as good as our hindsight, we'd be better off, a—sight."

And now the woman who spent her last cent on a fur coat wishes she had saved her money for fluffy summer finery.

Hoax—"I hear that D'Auber's work is winning recognition now." Joax—"Yes; it's so frightful that people can't mistake it for any other artist's."

Take everything with a grain of moderation. A little fertilizer makes the grass grow better, but put it on a foot thick and it kills all vegetation.

No matter what you may have seen, done, or had, in this world there is always some person who can hardly listen to you because of his or her anxiety to go you one better.

Wig—"There goes a fellow who's getting rich by collecting hush money from nearly every family in town." Wag—"You don't mean it?" "Fact; he manufactures soothing syrup."