

The Centre Democrat.

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NEWS ABOUT THE FURNACES

The Valentine Plant to be in Blast In Two Weeks

THE C.R.R. OF PA. CONNECTION

Work Being Pushed With a Large Force of Men—Rumors About Other Industrial Enterprises—Railroad Offices Being Moved to Temple Court.

Everybody is elated over the bright prospects for Bellefonte again resuming her former industrial activity and becoming an important iron centre. Every indication is promising and the latest news is encouraging.

The repairs at the Valentine Furnace are nearly all completed, fires have been placed in the ovens to dry them out, large shipments of stock, such as ore, coke and limestone are arriving and in about two weeks the fires will be started to put the big plant in full operation.

The starting of the furnace has compelled the Standard Scale company to vacate some of the buildings they occupied and enlarge their own plant considerably as their business has been rapidly increasing in the past few months. There is considerable stir at this point and a large number of skilled mechanics are employed.

C. R. R. OF PA. EXTENSION.

On Monday morning a large force of men went to work on the extension of the C.R.R. of Pa. across Spring Creek to reach the Bellefonte Furnace, known as the Collins plant. A construction train with a gang of men began on the fill on the east side of the creek. On the other side carts, wagons, plows with many workmen began tearing up the sod and building the road bed towards the furnace which will not require any very heavy grading. The work of building the numerous stone piers for the 700 feet of girders and bridging will commence at once, and the superstructure will be finished in a short time.

The repairs at the Bellefonte Furnace are comparatively small and the plant can be put in operation at a slight expense. There is little doubt but that it will be in operation by July 4th, as previously announced.

CURTAINS WORKS MAY START.

An effort is being made to start the charcoal furnace, at Roland, Pa., known as Curtin's Furnace. An option has been secured by private parties who do not wish to have names published. But there is every indication that it will also be making iron in a short time.

PUDDLING MILLS.

There also are well founded rumors that when the Bellefonte Furnace is in blast, the same company will likely secure the Bellefonte Nail Works and use the puddling department for converting a portion of their product into bar iron. That mill is well equipped for the purpose.

The puddling mill near the Valentine Furnace will also likely resume.

CLEARFIELD EXTENSION.

Everybody has been expecting to hear that the C.R.R. of Pa. will be extended to Clearfield. Up to this time no definite information has been given out by the railroad people. Mr. Gephart is in the eastern cities this week with this object in view.

This week the C.R.R. of Pa. are moving their offices from the Bush Arcade to Temple Court building, on Allegheny street, where in conjunction with the Bellefonte Furnace company they will occupy the entire third floor, consisting of a suite of nine rooms, which will give them better accommodations and the advantage of fire proof vaults.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Bellefonte Furnace Company was duly organized and the following officers were elected:

J. W. Gephart, president and general manager; John Reilly, vice president; Wm. H. Hollis, secretary and treasurer; Wm. J. McHugh, assistant treasurer. Board of Directors—J. W. Gephart, Bellefonte; John Reilly, Philadelphia; Horace Disbrow Reeve, Philadelphia; Charles M. Clement, Sunbury; Thomas A. Shoemaker, Bellefonte.

Wanted at Lewistown.

Tuesday evening County Detective Jos. Rightmire arrested Irvin Graham, at Valentine's forge and took him to Fort Cronister, where he spent the night.

Graham is a young man about 21 years old. He had been working at Lewistown for some time past. The charge against him was the larceny of a watch and a sum of money. The sheriff of Mifflin county arrived in Bellefonte Wednesday morning and took his prisoner back with him to Lewistown, where he will stand trial for the crime charged against him.

BLAMES OVER EDUCATION.

Collis P. Huntington Says This Is One Cause of Distress.

At a banquet given Saturday night by Collis P. Huntington to directors of the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads Mr. Huntington made a remarkable speech, in which he declared that much of the distress in the United States was due to over-education of the masses. He said:

"I regret one tendency in our country, admirable as are her institutions. It is almost heresy to say it, but I do not mind taking the responsibility. I refer to increase of higher education for the masses. The Anglo-Saxon has easily outstripped all his competitors in those things which make for commercial progress and success of nations because he has been, above all other things, practical. While preparation for professional life requires advanced knowledge, it seems to me that the vast majority of our young people spend to many of their vigorous years of youth inside the school-room and not enough in the practical work of life.

"The years from fifteen to twenty-one are immensely valuable, for they are years of keen observation, individuality and confidence. In many cases—quite too many—they are spent in cramming the mind with knowledge that is not likely to help young men in work they are fitted to do.

"How many young men with college educations are standing about waiting for something that will never come because work that lies nearest at hand is not to their liking? We seem to be fast outgrowing these things, which, when our fathers lived, were called sterling qualities, but are now called follies, or work that a gentleman should not do, as if all honest work were not honorable work."

UNTIL SUPERIOR COURT.

Declares Act Unconstitutional, Fire Wardens Must be Paid.

Recently Judge Lindsay, of Warren, decided that the act which authorized the payment of constables as fire wardens was unconstitutional owing to a defect in the title. Last week, J. A. Herr, of Clinton county, wrote to Thomas J. Edge, secretary of the department of agriculture, asking what effect this decision of a lower court would have on the act. The department in its reply to Mr. Herr gives the following:

"The deputy attorney general advises me that the law is still in force and binding upon the county officers until the Superior court finally decides that the act of the legislature, which makes constables of townships ex officio fire wardens and the act which obliges county commissioners to appoint detectives to ferret out those who create forest fires, are defective or unconstitutional."

Safe Traveling.

According to the number of passengers carried and the number of miles traveled fatalities to railroad passengers are fewer than imagined. Even accidents to trains are not so numerous as supposed. Statistics show that the average number of passengers per one hundred accidents is about thirty-five and the number injured is one hundred and twenty-two. Careful computation for one year shows that the number of passengers carried for one passenger killed was 2,827,474, and the total number of passengers carried for one passenger injured was 178,132. It is also shown that 72,093,963 miles were traveled for every passenger killed and 4,541,945 passenger miles for every passenger injured. This shows that railroad traveling is much safer than the stage coach traveling of years ago.

Killed at Exeter.

Franklin Sowers, of Norristown, Pa., one of the unfortunate victims in the railroad wreck, at Exeter, Pa., last Friday, while returning from the unveiling of the Hartman monument at Harrisburg, was a brother-in-law of Mrs. James P. Coburn, of that place. Franklin Sowers was in his 71st year, and was a prominent business man in the city of Norristown. He was the son of Christopher Sowers, one of the oldest printers in the state.

Deceased is survived by his wife, who was a Miss Margaret Coburn, a sister of James P. Coburn of this place.

The Veto Ase Hits State College.

The governor yesterday disapproved items aggregating \$11,000, in the bill appropriating \$66,551.90 to the Pennsylvania State College. The items to which the governor objects are for repairs to buildings, maintaining campus walks and roads, the department of physics, civil engineering, chemistry, psychology and the biological and botanical laboratories. These items are disapproved by reason of the financial condition of the commonwealth which does not justify the executive in approving them.

LEGISLATIVE BRIBERS

To Be Prosecuted Vigorously at Once at Harrisburg

JUDGE SIMONTON WILL SIT

Investigators Will Submit Their Evidence—Some Arrests Will Follow—List of Men Who Will Stand Trial—Prominent Citizens Involved.

During the last session of the legislature an effort was made to force the passage of the famous McCarrell bill, regulating the method and number of jurors to be summoned by district attorneys in the trial of criminal cases. The purpose of this bill, apparently, was to favor M. S. Quay, who was to be tried in the Philadelphia courts for the illegal use of state funds, loaning it out to favorite banks and using the same for speculation and collecting interest off of same, all of which is a criminal offense. The committee appointed to investigate the charges that attempts had been made to bribe members of the legislature to vote for this bill, unearthed numerous instances of attempts at bribery. In their report they urged the prosecution of those implicated and an appropriation was made for that purpose. Representative John Fow, of Philadelphia was the chairman of the committee and is determined to bring these men to justice.

Representatives Fow and Voorhees went to Harrisburg, Wednesday, to submit to District Attorney Miller, of Dauphin county, the evidence in the McCarrell bill bribery cases. Their fellow-member of the Committee on Prosecutions, Representative Young, met them in Harrisburg.

"With the evidence," said Mr. Fow, "we will present to the district attorney a certified copy of the House resolutions for the prosecution. In accordance with the instructions to us, we will notify the Attorney General of this action, so that he will be in a position to co-operate with District Attorney Miller. Counsel will be ready to represent our committee in the preliminary stages as well as at the trial, but after presenting the evidence to the district attorney, Mr. Voorhees, Mr. Young and I will have nothing to do until trial. It will not be our business to swear out warrants. I know nothing about the reports that persons other than those named in the prosecuting resolutions may be defendants in the case."

"In a public matter of such importance as this, probably the Court's taking the initiative would be the more satisfactory way."

The men recommended for punishment in the report adopted by the House are Representative Charles B. Spatz, of Berks county; ex-Congressman Monroe H. Kulp, of Shamokin; ex-Senator John J. Coyle, of Schuylkill; Michael J. Costello, of Philadelphia; Thomas M. Moyles, of Wilkesbarre; Robert Evans, of Philadelphia; John R. Byrnes, of Westmoreland county; Parker Titus, of Easton and Frank B. Jones, of Philadelphia.

Found a Silver Mine.

The residents of Nittany valley are excited over the discovery of a silver mine. J. A. Albright, a carriage maker in Tylersville, was walking up a ridge near that place and picked up what he thought was ore. Upon investigation he found that the interior was composed of a substance like that of silver. He sent it away and had it analyzed when it was found to contain 60 per cent of pure silver. Mr. Albright says that thousands of tons of this kind of ore can be found on the place. And what he wants to do is to form a stock company and commence operating the mine at once.

Installation Services.

The installation services of Rev. H. C. Salem, as pastor of the Rebersburg Lutheran church, will take place as follows: May 21, 1899, 10 a. m., the charge to the pastor will be delivered by Prof. E. J. Wolf, D.D., of Gettysburg, Pa.; at 2:30 p. m. the charge to the people will be delivered by Rev. C. L. McConnell, of Millinburg. To all of these services the public is invited. There will be no services in the charge May 28th, as the pastor will be absent from town.

Grand Encampment Session.

The seventieth annual communication of the grand encampment of Pennsylvania I. O. O. F. opened at Allentown yesterday, when forty-one past chief patriarchs received degrees. The present membership is 12,385, a net decrease of 478; working encampments 247 past chief patriarchs, 4,498; patriarchs relieved, 2,020; widowed families relieved, 11; paid for relief, \$63,265.27; working expenses, \$30,530.97. Total receipts \$99,042.25; assets reported by encampments \$340,382.87; a decrease in assets of \$8637.34.

DESTROYING THE FISH.

Trout Cannot Live in the Face of Advancing Civilization.

A correspondent of the Oil City Blizzard writes: "In consideration of the slim results of an excursion after trout, it occurs to me to ask the question, 'What has become of them?' We all know what large numbers of fry of various sizes have been put into the streams of this neighborhood within the past ten years. The aggregate runs into the hundreds of thousands. No explanation of the scarcity of the fish has been offered as far as I know by any one. Dynamite plays but a slim part in depleting a trout stream owing to the habits of the fish. Liming will effectually destroy them and poaching lessens their number considerably, but all these causes combined could not take out but a small portion of the myriads which have been placed in the streams. In my judgment we must look more deeply into the matter. By comparison of the size of trout, known by 'planters' 3, 4 and 5 years old, one can easily see that food is lacking and other surroundings have destroyed the young fry and stunted the growth of the few remaining. Food of course, is the fish requisite, and the clearing of the dense forests formerly along the streams has cut off the constant supply of insects, bugs and worms dropping therefrom. You have noticed that no trout are found below the timber line of the streams, they retire as the trees disappear. This is notably the case in Cherry run. Again the larger trout, being hungry and fond of their own species, have made quick work of the little three-quarter-inch fellows and our severe winters are responsible for many more. The salmo fontinalis is, like all wild things, driven out and destroyed by the advance of civilization."

DEATH IN HIS OWN LASSO.

The Prank of a Chester Boy Results in a Tragedy.

Frank Beaumont, a Chester boy, threw a lasso over the shoulders of a Reading engineer, who was leaning out of the cab of his engine. The rope jerked taut, pinning the engineer's arms. The lad had the other end of the rope about his body and he was dragged along. When finally the train was stopped the boy was found to have been crushed to death beneath the wheels of the cars.

Young Beaumont was one of a crowd of Chester boys who had taken to throwing lassos after having visited a Wild West show, in which the daring feats of the cowboys, with their lariats, aroused the boys admiration.

Will Have a Big Day.

The Centre Hall Camp Sons of Veterans have taken into their hands the arrangements for a rousing big day on the 4th of July. The celebration will be held in Grange Park grounds, and various features will be introduced to make the event of interest. A big parade of the order will be on the program. Camps in adjoining towns have been invited and have signified their intention of being present.

In the Coils of a Blacksnake.

While playing near the creek bridge near Bloomsburg, Pa., Jay, the seven-year-old son of Jacob Brobst, was attacked by a large blacksnake. His cries attracted the attention of some men, who killed the serpent, but not before it had wrapped itself around the boy's body and squeezed him terribly. It is thought that he will recover.

Good Act.

Under a recent act of the legislature, the judge, sheriff and county commissioners constitute a board which has authority to put prisoners in the county jail at work on the streets and roads and use them at any work which can be done without the aid of machinery. All labor done by the prisoners is required to be manual labor.

After Water Works.

Millheim residents are working hard for a public water service. They held a meeting recently and formed a company for the purpose of installing a plant. It is thought that \$8,000 or \$10,000 can easily be raised and with that amount an abundant supply of cool, pure water can be piped into the town from Phillips creek.

Big Shoot.

Tyrone Gun Club will hold their tournament at West Tyrone on Friday and Saturday, May 26th and 27th. Shooters have indicated their intention of coming from New York City, Buffalo, N. Y., Cleveland, Ohio, Pittsburg Johnstown, Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Bellefonte, Clearfield, Philipsburg, Osceola Mills, Huntingdon and other points.

—For Rent—Several very desirable houses at reasonable rent. A. M. HOOPER Bellefonte.

SCHOOL FUNDS CUT DOWN

Gov. Stone Makes a Cut in the Appropriation

REDUCED NEARLY \$1,000,000

Claims Economy in State Affairs is Necessary—Republican Extravagance, Plunder and Treasury Looting Consumes the Money—Matters for Reflection.

The effect of several extravagant legislatures, and corrupt state officials; is coming home to the taxpayers with a thud that is bringing the most bitter partisans to their senses. The expected has happened, not enough funds in the state treasury to meet the necessary expenses and Gov. Stone has cut down the appropriation for our public schools about a million dollars. That is a reduction of about one-fourth the regular amount, which the people must make up by direct taxation or the schools will suffer accordingly.

Papers throughout the country, as well as the educational interest—and it is an interest professionally and financially—are vigorous in criticism of the lopping off of nearly a million and a quarter of dollars from the usual appropriations for school purposes in Pennsylvania. On its face it may be a retrograde step, but there are good reasons in the way of explanation. It simply results from the extravagance and jobbery of the state government that has been going on for years, and for which the republican party and its accepted bosses are exclusively responsible. We heard nothing of this kind when Robert E. Pattison was governor and guarded and protected the financial interests of the Commonwealth with ability and integrity, even hampered as he was at all times by a hostile legislature. If George A. Jenks had been elected governor we are confident that nothing of the kind would have occurred.

A leading republican paper of New York declares that the reduction of the school funds is a fitting sequel to the operations of the Quay treasury ring, and repeats facts well known in this state that the school funds were diverted to pet banks to be loaned to ring favorites. As a matter of fact and as a single instance the hundred thousand dollars that the late state treasurer directed should be loaned out of state funds deposited in the Peoples bank to the Quays was part of the school funds of Pennsylvania, and in this way: At the time there was default in the payment of the school quota to the counties, and instead of this \$100,000 and many other thousands being applied to that purpose, it was loaned to politicians and speculators on the orders of the republican bosses. For years the school fund was plundered by these people or distributed as a reward for personal and factional purposes. The counties, deprived of the state quota due them, were forced in some cases to issue bonds to borrow money; in others the school year was cut down, and again in others the pay of the teachers was reduced. And all that the school funds could be used for speculative purposes by machine politicians and speculators, or if they did not so use them, they shared in the interest contracted to be paid by such rotten banks as the Peoples for state deposits.

Those very republican politicians who have been raiding the school funds of Pennsylvania have been at the same time posing and making capital and votes as the particular advocates and champions of "the little red schoolhouse." No state of the Union, unless some of the southern states under carpet-bag and negro rule, can match this debauchery of the public conscience here in Pennsylvania. And it is in progress today, as county after county is voting confidence in Boss Quay by electing delegates to a state convention to nominate another candidate for state treasurer to his liking.

In the above article will be read the announcement that Governor Stone has reduced the school appropriation. The reduction in the school fund will not affect the amount to which the various districts are entitled for the school year ending June 1 next. The appropriation is disbursed on the basis of one-third on the number of children between 6 and 16 years; one-third on the number of resident taxables and the balance on the number of regularly paid teachers. The rate per child is \$1.62; the rate per taxable is \$1.07, and the rate per teacher is \$66.07. The latter amount is diminished slightly in those counties which contribute a portion of their appropriation to the salaries of their county superintendents.

Found An Old Spanish Dollar.

Nipponese News: In clearing away the walls of the tobacco shed, which was wrecked by the wind recently, George Hampe, of Oval, found a Spanish dollar dated 1715. Several old Spanish pennies were also found.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Now come the balmy days again,
When all the air is hazy;
My wife's begun to clean the house,
And I'll soon be clean crazy.

In the public eye—dust.
A straight tip—the ferrule.
A man's wife is often his saving fund.
What we are forced to is always hated.
The gilded youth is merely fashion plated.

A circular ought to be good all-round reading.
Most near-sighted people are close readers.
A blind man—the window-shade manufacturer.

A fine sentence: "One hundred dollars and costs."
The base ball crank is what makes the game go round.

The present of a phonograph is not an unspeakable gift.
The man whose manners are cold has a sort of liquid air.

Early grasshoppers are about to spring into unpopularity.

Lots of persons who talk a great deal never say anything.
What have you done to-day that has made others happier?

The pleasures of peace are not a Philippine—a present to us.

The barber first soaps his own "mug" and then his customer's.
The owner of a front porch now puts on airs and puts out chairs.

"Oh, yes," remarked the dentist, "I attend some swell gatherings."
The girl who was "bred in old Kentucky" must have been raised there.

The man who is a little too fresh always thinks he's the salt of the earth.
When the pugilist decides to cut an acquaintance he's apt to use an uppercut.

Some of the spring gowns may not be swell, but they are certainly high-toned.
A man may be excused for getting hot under the collar when he has a boil on his neck.

Hoax—"Hello, old man! You look worried. Trouble afoot?" Joax—"Yep; my corns."

"I am a martyr, bound to the steak," said the boarder as he went down to breakfast.

There is nothing new under the sun, but there is plenty of whitewash at Washington.

"I may be a shady character," said the detective, "but nevertheless I have a good following."

Sleep never seems so sweet as in church or when medicine is to be given every half hour.

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," but you can get molasses out of a hog's head.

It's funny that when a man imagines himself one of the salt of the earth he usually gets fresh.

The man who shakes dice and wins can truthfully state that he has had a rattling good time.

Dead men's shoes are generally worn out before their waiting relatives get a chance to wear them.

There is always sure to be trouble in the family when a woman begins to speak of "my money."

Consistent, steady work will accomplish more than all the spasmodic endeavor of intermittent energy.

Judging by some of the new bathing suits, the dear girls must regard a dip in the surf as a mere matter of form.

It's peculiar that chills and fever stick closer to a brother to a fellow and at the same time give him the shake.

A correspondent: "Is it proper to kiss your wife before the servant girl?" Better that than to kiss the servant girl first.

It wouldn't do a deaf man any good to have himself arrested and taken before a Magistrate, with the idea that he'd be given a hearing.

It has been discovered that a thunder-storm has a serious effect on the red-headed woman. This gives the white horse theory a little company.

"What's the matter with shingle?" "He doesn't know; he's so thin." "What do you mean by that?" "Simply that he can't tell whether it's stomach trouble or backache."

Will Pay 50 Cents Per Ton.

The Berwind-White Coal Mining Co. has given notice of its purpose to increase the price of the wages of their coal diggers five cents on the ton, or 50 cents per gross ton, to take effect on the first of June. Just what effect this action will have in mining circles generally throughout the region we are unable to say, but we had intimation not long since of other operators who stood ready to make the advance when the Berwind-White Co. should do so.

The advance to 50 cents per ton refers to pick miners, while 25 cents per ton will be paid for loading after machines. The increase will effect all the company's operations in Centre, Clearfield, Jefferson, Cambria and Somerset counties.