

The Centre Democrat.

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ABOUT THE COURT HOUSE

Some of the Changes made for the New Year.

NEW OFFICIALS INSTALLED

On Monday Morning—Some Additional Appointments Made—The County Auditors are now in Session—Sheriff's Installations on Monday Morning.

The beginning of the new year was the occasion for some decided changes of officials about the court house. Of course, the reader is aware that we held an election last November and that some fell by the wayside, while others stepped down and out upon the completion of a regular term. Last Saturday the business about the County Commissioners' office was rather brisk, as the old board were closing up their term, and among the most important things for them to do was the election of a mercantile appraiser. There were about sixteen applicants for the position and each commissioner had a different man, so that they could not get together after several days balloting. Finally, late on Saturday evening, the man was named and it came to Harry B. Pontius, of Bellefonte.

Monday morning the newly elected officers began to gather in and the ceremony of installing them took place before Recorder J. C. Harper, who administered the oath of office to the following: Cyrus Brungart, sheriff; Nelson Robb, recorder; A. G. Archey, register; Daniel Heckman, Philip Meyer and M. F. Riddle, commissioners; W. T. Speer, treasurer; cons. clerk, W. Boyd Musser, was qualified before prothonotary Gardner. While the oaths were being administered some patriotic rooster got outside of the office door and set off several cannon crackers that almost shook the ceilings loose and for the time made some of the officials almost forget the solemnity of the surroundings, and the gravity of the proceedings.

The Auditors, Messrs W. H. Tibbens, John H. Beck and Archie Allison were installed by the Prothonotary Gardner, and commenced at once reviewing the work of the various officials during the past year. For clerk, they have chosen W. Miles Walker, who is well acquainted with the routine of the various offices and will be of great assistance to them in their deliberations.

Mr. Archey has selected James Swabb, of Harris Twp., to assist him in the Registers Office. Mr. Swabb was an assistant under John Rupp, some years ago, and can take hold of the duties of that position with little trouble. James is thoroughly competent.

Recorder Robb will remain in the Commissioners office for about a month or six weeks, until the new board have the annual statement issued and are thoroughly familiar with that office. In the meantime Mr. Robb will oversee the duties of the Recorder's office, with William Dukeman as the deputy, who has been there long enough to conduct that department himself.

Over in the Treasurer's office we found Pap Speer cracking jokes with his many friends and setting up the smokers to all who came along. He intends to retain Deputy Orr Kline, for a time, and then will assume control himself.

In the Commissioners Office the new board seemed to be engrossed in work from the start and, as things are different there now, we found a warm welcome, and had inclination to linger a bit with the new officials. Instead of being the silent member of the firm, as heretofore—ornamental rather than useful—Danny Heckman is now the President of the Board and is hustling about in a business like manner. Philip Meyer, the new democratic member, is taking a keen interest, and will make an official that will suit the people. Our friend Matthew Riddle is the same happy individual as of old and is perfectly at home in the court house and, under the existing circumstances, responsibilities of the office do not weigh so heavily upon him. Yet he does not display his old time cordiality. If Bro. Riddle don't soon come off his bandwagon, he never need come over into our backyard, or slide down our cellar door. Now Matt, will you be good?

Boyd Musser, the clerk in the Commissioners Office, is down to work in good shape and in a very short time will master the run of the office, and the public will always find him obliging and agreeable.

Up at the county jail there was more hustle and bustle than anywhere else. Sheriff Cronister and his assistants were busily engaged in packing up their household effects while a lot of teams from the vicinity of his home, at Martha, were on hand to haul him up the Baldeagle. Early on Monday morn-

ing teams came in from Penns Valley with Sheriff Brungart's flitting. Some of them must have started quite early, and were covered with frost and snow as they pulled into town. Sheriff Brungart has retained Deputy Harry Jackson, who is one of the best qualified men for such a position that could be secured, and as a result the business is going along same as though there was no flitting.

RETIRING OFFICIALS.

It may be appropriate for a few words in regard to some of the retiring democratic officials:

It is not flattery to say that during the past three years the office of sheriff was conducted admirably. We have the first complaint to hear that Mr. Cronister was incompetent, negligent or derelict in the transaction of business entrusted to that department; but there was method, promptness and precision. Mr. Cronister made a good sheriff and leaves a clean official record which he can review with pride and satisfaction. It is to his credit that he was neither a spendthrift or profligate; and has taken care of the emoluments of the office, as a sensible man ought. While in Bellefonte Mr. Cronister made many warm friends who regret to see him leave our community.

In the Register's Office there was an affable, obliging and competent man in the person of G. W. Rumberger. He also made an enviable record and faithfully discharged every duty. The legal profession are unanimous in declaring Mr. Rumberger one of the most efficient men who have filled that position.

It is to the credit of ex-Recorder J. C. Harper that his term of office was distinguished for promptness and efficiency. Public records and instruments received immediate attention, and this proved a great accommodation to all who found it necessary to go there.

In all these cases the public received the very best service.

Big Blaze at Eagleville.

About one o'clock Friday morning fire broke out in the public hall at Eagleville known as the skating rink. The rink was a large frame structure and the flames spread rapidly, communicating to two adjoining houses, which together with the rink were soon in ashes. The rink was owned by J. J. Kunes. One of the houses was occupied by Daniel W. Glossner, the other by Mrs. Bechtol, widow of the late John Bechtol. The origin of the fire is not known but may have occurred from an overheated stove, as a dance was held in the hall Thursday night. Most of the household goods of Mr. Glossner and Mrs. Bechtol were saved. It was only by the hardest kind of work by the citizens of the town that the fire was prevented from spreading to other buildings and the conflagration becoming general. The loss it is thought will be upwards of \$4,000.

Lady's Comb Takes Fire.

There was a singular thing happened at Mt. Bethel church in Nittany Valley Saturday afternoon during the funeral services over the remains of the late Jacob Kryder. A young lady, a daughter of Cyrus Kryder, occupied a seat in a pew near the stove. The weather was intensely cold and the stove was very hot. Suddenly there was a hissing sound and some one clapped a handkerchief to the back of Miss Kryder's head. Her celluloid comb had ignited from the heat of the stove and the hissing sound heard was her hair burning.

Miss Kryder was burned about the back of her neck and her hair was badly singed, before the burning comb could be removed.

Old Man Cruelly Clotted.

Jacob Yarison, an aged farmer of Sugar Valley, was attacked Tuesday night 26th, in his barnyard by two young men named Brickell and Womelsdorf, the three being related by marriage. The old man was felled to the ground by a terrific blow over the head with a large club. His assailants jumped and trampled on him, bruising and cutting him frightfully about the head.

Fourteen to Hang.

More men are under the sentence of death in Pennsylvania than at any prior period in her history, and the probability is that 1900 will be the banner year of executions in the nineteenth century. So far Governor Stone has in his possession papers indicating the conviction of 14 murders, the date for whose execution he is required to name.

Installation.

The public installation of the officers of Post 261 Milesburg will be held in the Old M. E. Church, Milesburg, on Saturday evening, next, Jan'y 6th, 1900 at 6.30.

A joint debate—discussion in a bar-room.

DYNAMITE EXPLOSION

Hot Poker Drops in a Bucket of Explosives

AT SALONA STONE QUARRIES

One Man Has His Leg Torn off and Dies Soon After—Building Destroyed—A Hotel Man Attempts Suicide at Lock Haven.

A terrific explosion took place in the Salona quarries Friday afternoon. A man named Boyer was stirring the fire with a poker. In hanging the poker up he missed the nail and it fell into a bucket of dynamite and ignited the fuses.

Several of the workmen were in the shanty and all rushed out at the one end of the building. They had only run a few steps when the deafening roar of exploding dynamite was heard. The shanty was shattered and pieces of boards and scuffling flew in all directions.

Grant Bathurst was at the other end of the shanty when the explosion occurred and was thrown with great violence. His right leg above the knee was torn completely off. When picked up he was unconscious. Blood was running from his mouth and ears and he was bleeding profusely from gashes all over his body. Mr. Bathurst died between 2 and 3 o'clock. He was about 37 years old and is survived by his wife and one child.

SHOT HIMSELF.

Peter Meitzler Makes an Attempt to Take His Life.

Peter Meitzler, proprietor of the Riverside hotel, at Lock Haven, Pa., attempted suicide by shooting himself on Monday evening. He had been confined to bed for about two weeks with inflammatory rheumatism and became somewhat impatient at his slow recovery. Mr. Meitzler directed George Miller to go into an adjoining room and to bring him a revolver. After waiting a few minutes Mr. Meitzler told Miller to call Mrs. Meitzler, as he wanted to see her. Miller went down stairs in compliance with the request, and while on his way down he, as well as other members of the family, heard a muffled report. They hastened into Mr. Meitzler's room and found that gentleman lying back on his pillow, with an ugly wound in his breast near the heart.

The ball was evidently aimed at the heart, but it missed its object, as it went between that organ and the lung. It was probed for that night, but is so deeply imbedded it could not be found. It is a thirty eight calibre.

While the wound is not necessarily fatal, it is believed that Mr. Meitzler's weakened condition will not permit him to recover from the effects of the wound. Mr. Meitzler is in a critical condition.

Some Are Sleighting.

On Sunday prior to Xmas there was a fall of snow, rain and sleet and the cold weather that followed made good sleighting over the greater portion of the county since. Some sections have had sleighting for the past three weeks, while here in Bellefonte there has been no such luxury. We generally are the last to have snow, and enough for sleighting. The reason for this is that Bellefonte lies entirely in a ravine along the water courses, and the spring water has the effect of raising the temperature several degrees above that which prevails over the plain of Nittany valley. Some may think that we are what is termed a "warm number" or "hot stuff," but that is not the case, it is all due to the abundance of the sparkling spring water that warms the atmosphere during the winter and cools it in summer time.

During the holiday week we had a genuine cold spell as the thermometer dropped down to the region of zero and lingered there quite awhile. There was good skating on many of the streams, and in a number of instances people were engaged in filling their ice houses with a clear solid product that was from six to ten inches thick.

Johnson Released on Bail.

Millard F. Johnson, the jury commissioner, charged with the fraudulent selection of juries, who has been in jail at Clearfield since 22nd was released on \$4,000 bail. Johnson was captured at Marion, Ind., whither he had fled after the exposure of the irregular empaneling of the juries. On Saturday Judge Cyrus Gordon, declared vacant the offices of Jury Commissioners Millard F. Johnson and J. E. Phillips who are charged with misdemeanor in office, and appointed J. Blair Reed, of Clearfield borough and J. S. McCreery, of Ferguson township, to fill the vacancies. The new appointees are leading prohibitionists.

K. G. E. BANQUET.

The Knights of this place had a very nice banquet on Tuesday evening, at Joseph Ceaders parlors, by W. Harrison Walker, Esq., the newly installed Noble Chief for the first term in 1900. It was the regular meeting night of the Castle and also for installing the newly elected officers and after all officers were installed the Noble Chief invited all the Sir Knights to Ceaders for a feed. After justice was done to the choice viands, the following toasts were responded to, the Noble Chief acting as toastmaster: Come to Order, Capt. H. S. Taylor; The Newly Installed Officers, J. K. Johnston; The Duties of Officers and Members, E. E. Ardery; The Progress of Knighthood, A. Lukenbach; The Kickers, John S. Yearick; Smoke Up, A. V. Hamilton; The Veterans, W. H. Taylor; The Re-Installed Members, T. M. Barnhart; The Ladies and What They Wish to Know, M. I. Gardner; The Prospect for 1900, W. P. Kuhn; A. Close Shave, John L. Nighthart; The Goat, James Schofield; How to get Even, L. H. Wian; Banqueting, S. D. Gettig.

The officers for the ensuing term are as follows:—Past Chief, B. D. Tate; Noble Chief, W. Harrison Walker; Vice Chief, J. S. McCarger; High Priest, George Taylor; Keeper of Exchequer, L. H. Wian; Clerk of Exchequer, W. J. Taylor; Master of Records, E. E. Ardery; Sir Herald, W. H. Kockler; Venerable Hermit, James Schofield; Worthy Chamberlain, Harry Gherett; Worthy Bard, A. Lukenbach; Ensign, S. D. Gettig; First Guardsman, J. K. Johnston; Second Guardsman, A. V. Hamilton.

This is expected to be the banner year, and the prospects of Bellefonte Castle are certainly very bright and the Eagle is soaring high.

Dangers of a Coal Famine.

Few people realize the critical condition of the coal trade this season, and especially in the bituminous field. All the mines are running at full capacity and in spite of that there is not enough coal in sight to supply the demand. Rather, the trouble exists with railroad companies who do not have the wheelage, or cars, to haul the product to market. In the past month soft coal has been leaping up in price, on account of the large consumers who must have it are bidding to get the product of the mines. Here in Bellefonte there is the greatest difficulty experienced by our furnaces, lime kilns, steam heat plant and the coal yards in having the necessary supply to keep going, and at times must borrow, to tide over some days of shortage.

The alarming situation at this season of the year lies in the fact that we are liable to have a cold snap, or a blizzard, any time that might block the movement of trains for a few days and a coal famine would cause great distress, and especially if the steam heat plant should run out of fuel or the furnaces be compelled to shut down. We had such an experience heretofore, and are liable to have a more serious one this winter.

Other towns will be in practically the same shape should such an emergency arise. A coal famine of this kind would reach far, and cause much trouble.

Shirt Factories Plenty.

The matter of establishing shirt factories is becoming a craze in this section, and every town seems to be thinking of getting one. Bellefonte's plant is now in operation with a large number of hands employed. At this time it is hard to say whether it is a blooming success or not, but there is no reason why shirts can not be manufactured as cheaply in this town as anywhere else. Then there is a constant demand for the article as men can't well go without them; in fact, it is a piece of wholesome advice for a man to "keep his shirt on" and not "get hot under the collar." Millheim is doing some earnest figuring in this line and they are confident of getting a shirt factory there before long. The latest is Centre Hall and they seem to think over there that in a short time they will be making these necessary garments, too. If all these prospects materialize there will be an abundance of the product and there will be little trouble in having the article retailed, or by wholesale.

May Test New Territory.

A movement is on foot to reorganize the Pennsylvania Development and Construction company of this city with the view of putting down test wells for gas and oil in Nittany and Bald Eagle valleys. Gas has been found when deep wells were drilled in Bald Eagle valley and it is stated that recently a deep well was drilled near Howard in which oil was so plentiful that the water could not be used. It is quite likely that something will be done in this matter before next spring.—L. H. Express.

Is the hard-up musical lawyer a broken lyre?

WAS BURNED TO A CRISP

Unfortunate Experience Down at Marsh Creek, Last Friday.

AGED LADY'S CLOTHES AFIRE

The Back of her Dress Caught From brushing too close to the Stove—Desperate Effort to Extinguish the Flame—Was alone at the time—Found Unconscious.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lucas, who resided along Marsh creek, was the victim of a burning accident last Friday afternoon. While at work in the kitchen, her dress caught fire, while she was standing with her back to the stove. She ran to the water bucket and threw its contents over her. This failed to extinguish the flames. She then ran into the yard screaming for help when she fell to the ground unconscious. Her clothes were all burned off her body. Shortly after, the unfortunate lady's daughter, Mrs. Edward Yeager, returned from the barn, and found her mother lying on the ground. The back of her body and her limbs were burned to a crisp. The unconscious form was carried into the house. During the night Mrs. Lucas regained consciousness for about an hour. She then sank into a stupor and died the next morning. Mrs. Lucas was aged 79 years, 9 months and 21 days. She was a widow, but is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Yeager, with whom she resided, and a son at Berwick. The funeral took place Monday afternoon.

A WISE COURSE.

The Teachers Institute did a wise thing by reconsidering their vote in regard to holding Curtin Memorial exercises in the public schools, of this county. When the matter was first brought to their attention, it seems that it was not fully explained and some wrong impressions prevailed. It would have been to the discredit of the teachers of this county for such a vote to have remained on record, and especially when Andrew G. Curtin had been prominent in public school work in this State, and the founder of the Soldiers Orphan School system of this commonwealth—a monument more enduring than that of granite or bronze.

It is timely and appropriate for the schools of this county to hold Curtin Memorial exercises February 22. In the first place it is profitable from an educational standpoint as the rising generation have little knowledge of Gov. Curtin's illustrious career and of the times of 1860 when he won the title of the great "War Governor," and was the personal friend and political advisor of Abraham Lincoln during that perilous epoch of our nation's history.

Local pride should be sufficient to induce every teacher to enter into this work with enthusiasm and vigor. In every school house in this county Curtin Memorial exercises should be appropriately observed, and if any one is inclined to contribute to the erection of a suitable monument, at the county seat, the opportunity should be given then and there. To do this is only a patriotic duty and we are anxious to see the school children enlisted in the project. We can even learn lessons from children in devotion, and fidelity.

Correspondents Wanted.

It is our desire to have a regular correspondent at each town or village in the county who will send in regular news of that vicinity. We want the news of your section. We have a large number of regular correspondents throughout the county, but the following points are not represented:

Millheim, State College, Stormstown, Snow Shoe, Pine Glenn, Marthas, Hannab, Beech Creek, Blanchard, Zions. Our readers living at the above sections are requested to select some bright energetic young person who will fill this position for us, and for you. Your locality should be heard from as well as other portions of the county, and will be if you only give this a bit of thoughtful attention. Send in the news, and we will print it gladly, and furnish the correspondent postage, stationery and paper while doing so.

Dropped to the Cellar.

On Wednesday morning merchant J. M. Parker, of Roland, was greatly surprised when he went to open his store. In the evening when he closed up the store was alright but in the morning it was out of sight.

Closer inspection revealed the fact that during the night the floor about the stove had caught afire and burned away an opening large enough to allow it to drop in the cellar. The fire fortunately did not spread any further, and likely was knocked out by the falling stove.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Roberts and His Darlings.

I'm going home, I'm going home,
Back where my loves are waiting;
I'm going to let others do
The Nations legislating;
Let others rant, let others roar,
Displaying sense or folly—
I'm going back to stray no more
From Sarah, Sue or Molly.
I'm going home, I'm going home,
Where loving hearts await me,
To loiter there and cease to care
A snap for those who hate me.
They've risen and they've had their say—
I'm beaten, but, by golly!
They cannot come and take away
My Sarah, Sue and Molly!
Chicago Times-Herald.

All fours—4444

Cigarmakers are natural boxers.
Castles in the air are for high livers.
Meals at all hours—in the grist mill.
When the poet writes to his lady love he goes to metre.

The miller ought to be happy, his life has such a floury aspect.

Even the bald-headed canal tender has to take care of his locks.

The most noted lecturer is not the one who is confined to his notes.

The cornet player must have both a mouth and an ear for music.

Perhaps a ship is a "she" because it isn't complete until it is manned.

The expressman would have a nice time if he tried to express himself.

The civil engineer would be well off if he were monarch of all he surveyed.

They don't make pianos of pine wood in order to give them a natural pitch.

It doesn't spoil the woodcutter's appetite to indulge in chops between meals.

A slate pencil is about the only kind that can come to a point without being lead.

A man needn't think he's a big gun because he gets discharged for having a load.

Most babies begin life dishonestly. That is to say, by robbing their elders of sleep.

The grass widow naturally does not care for people who do not care a straw for her.

The pawnbroker knows that many of his customers are with out a redeeming quality.

Other men may get up and get, but there are always lots of lawyers lying around.

The hat and shoemakers have something to do with the destiny which shapes our ends.

How could we ever send a letter anywhere if paper and envelopes were really stationary?

In practicing the law of human love and sympathy, we can all be shining legal lights.

"I think," said the chest protector, "that they ought to consider me a warm bosom friend."

Because editors have nice waste-baskets is no sign the poet's lines fall in pleasant places.

The officer who captures dogs for the pound can't be discharged for rushing the growler while on duty.

DAN WOODS RETIRES.

As a consequence of the establishment of a Pension Roll by the Pennsylvania Railroad company which retires employees at the age of 70 years, train master D. D. Woods of Tyrone, who was well known all over the Bald Eagle division will retire having reached the age limit. Mr. Woods began his service with the Pennsylvania Railroad company as freight brakeman in September, 1859.

Close of Institute.

Our last issue contained a report of Teacher's Institute up to Wednesday evening. Thursday's sessions were probably the largest in attendance. Some interesting talks were given by Dr. J. C. Hartzler, and Miss Lella Partridge, during the day. In the afternoon the attention of the teachers was called to the action of the Directors Association in which they passed resolutions for the observance of a Curtin Memorial Day, which the teachers opposed and defeated the day previous. When a vote was taken it seemed to carry unanimously. We understand that the County Superintendent has designated February 22nd, for that purpose.

In the evening a large audience assembled to hear the venerable Henry Watterson, of Kentucky, deliver his lecture on "Abraham Lincoln." It was a masterly effort that was truly appreciated. To some there was not enough nonsense in it, it was appreciated. Institute adjourned on Friday morning.