

# The Centre Democrat.

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## PROCEEDINGS

### IN COURT

List of Cases that Have Been tried in Open Court

### VERDICTS FOUND, SENTENCES

Cases Settled and Continued or Compromised—A Short Synopsis of Each Case Carefully Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq., for our Readers

Court convened at nine o'clock Monday morning, with President Judge Love on the bench.

A large number of petitions and motions were presented to the consideration of the Court, by the several members of the bar.

The list of grand jurors called and absentees noted and S. W. Smith, a farmer, of Centre Hall borough, was chosen foreman by the Court, and after the jury had been instructed as to its various duties by the Court, retired to the grand jury room to deliberate on the several bills of indictment that will be placed before them by District Attorney Spangler.

The constables of the several boroughs and townships of the county then made their quarterly returns, to the Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

The trial list of civil cases for the first week was then gone over and cases marked for trial and the following were disposed of:

John Zentmeyer, now to the use of P. B. Zentmeyer vs. Frank L. Black; appeal, plea non assumpsit. Settled.

Philip A. Leister vs. E. M. Huyett, appeal, plea non assumpsit. Continued at the cost of the defendant.

H. P. Harris vs. John H. Hines, appeal, plea non assumpsit. The defendant confessed judgment in open court in favor of the plaintiff for \$64.18.

List of traverse jurors called and absentees noted.

The first case called was Com. vs. Emory S. Beals, indicted for betrayal; prosecutrix, Marcella Straw. This case is from Huston township and the defendant plead guilty and received the usual sentence in such cases at the hands of the Court.

Court called at two o'clock, and considerable time was again taken up in hearing petitions and motions and taking returns to writs of partition.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Belleville was chartered by the Court.

No criminal cases being ready for trial the civil case of G. W. Barner vs. P. A. Leister, brought to recover back on a note given by the plaintiff to the defendant in a horse deal on the 21st day of April, 1899. The parties live in Potter township, the plaintiff near Centre Hall and the defendant near Pottery Mills. The plaintiff alleged that he bought a horse from the defendant on the day stated and giving in payment therefor his note for thirty-five dollars, with surety, and a colt and that the defendant had guaranteed the horse to be perfectly sound; on the other hand the defendant alleged that it was a horse trade, that he had one to see the plaintiff in the forenoon of that day in pursuance of a letter inquiring about a horse and that in the afternoon of the same day the plaintiff called at his place and that he had given him his choice of three horses, and that he had chosen a sorrel mare and that the terms of the trade were agreed upon, and that the plaintiff had gone to get security on his note, and in the evening they had met on the road near a Mr. Homan's where the trade was consummated by delivering his horse to the plaintiff and receiving in exchange his note and a colt which he could not get home that night on account of kicking. That sometime afterwards the plaintiff returned the mare to his place alleging that she was a "Dummy" and demanded his note for thirty-five dollars, which he could not do, having sold the note to the Penn's Valley Banking Company. The horse was afterwards taken up as a stray and sold and the plaintiff was obliged to pay the note to the bank and brought suit to recover his money from Mr. Leister. Verdict on Tuesday morning in favor of the plaintiff for \$20.90.

Com. vs. Farmer Hetzel and Jacob Wetzel, indicted, first count larceny; second count, receiving stolen goods knowing the same to have been stolen; prosecutrix J. H. Maize. Jacob Wetzel not being in court, only Hetzel was arraigned. These defendants are indicted for purloining about twenty chickens from the prosecutor on or about the 12th day of January of this year. This case is from Millheim, and the defendant plead guilty and stated to the Court that he had gone with Mr. Hetzel to take the chickens, but had not taken any but helped him carry three chickens away that night, and that afterward when spoken to by Mr. Maize had returned the chickens. Sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution, five dollars fine

and imprisonment in the county jail for a period of twenty days.

W. H. Ferris, of Sunbury, is acting as the official Court stenographer this week in the absence of Mr. Condon the official stenographer of this district.

Sallie A. Meek vs. the School District of Half Moon township, appeal, plea non assumpsit. This suit is brought to recover on a school order given to the plaintiff, who taught the Elder school in the defendant district during the winter of 1881 and 1882, and the case was fully reported in this paper during November Term of Court when it was before the Court and continued; verdict for the defendant district.

The National Computing Scale Company vs. F. B. Stover, appeal, plea non assumpsit. Continued before Court.

W. E. Irvin vs. Mrs. Blanche Meyers, and D. P. Meyers, her husband; appeal, plea non assumpsit. Settled.

The following cases were discontinued upon the payment of costs by the several plaintiffs. They all being against the same defendant and are as follows: The Pulaski Iron Company, Frick & Lindsay Company, George R. Sinaler, Jr., The Ohio Injector Company, Charles A. Turner, Pittsburg Guage and Supply Company, Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company and L. and R. Wistar, agents, and The Logan Iron & Steel Company vs. Kate A. Miller, trading as the Gowland Manufacturing Company, and John Gowland, manager. Gowland Manufacturing Company, appeals, pleas non assumpsit and payment.

Com. vs. Cyrus R. Gearheart, indicted for assault and battery, prosecutrix Maud Gearheart. This defendant is prosecuted for choking, cuffing about the head and hitting on the head with a wash basin Ross E. Benner, about four years of age and a son of his wife, on the 3rd day of December 1899 in Benner township where they live. The information was originally made before squire Keichline on the 4th day of December and sometime afterwards the case was settled and later on another information was made for the same offence before Squire Musser. Verdict on Wednesday morning of not guilty, but the defendant to pay the costs of prosecution.

Com. vs. H. W. Bickle, indictment, first count, libel; second count, threatening letters; prosecutrix George W. St. Clair. Counsel for defendant moved to quash the indictment and upon full consideration by the Court, the Court quashed the second count in the indictment and the trial proceeded on the first count, for libel. The prosecutor in this case is the conductor on one of the local freight trains from Sunbury to Belleville, and when at Belleville, boarded at Mrs. Bickle's boarding house, on North Thomas street, and on the 20th day of November, 1899, Mr. Bickle wrote a letter to the prosecutors wife and addressed and mailed it to Sunbury, wherein he stated that the prosecutor was too intimate with his wife, sitting up late in the dining room and kitchen talking to his wife, taking her to shows, operas and taking walks, etc., and after the receipt of a letter from Mrs. St. Clair sent a telegram to Mrs. St. Clair stating that what he had said in the letter was true and requesting her to come up and make them settle, whereupon this prosecution was instituted. The prosecutor alleges that there was no undue intimacy existing between him and Mrs. Bickle, and admitted that he had walked home with her once part way from the opera house, once from the electric station, and had walked out Thomas street in company with others, that he had brought home a watermelon, but that all the family had eaten of it. Mrs. Bickle also went on the stand and testified that there was no intimacy existing between her and Mr. St. Clair, while on the other hand the defence alleged that there was an existing intimacy between these parties that should not have been, and that the defendant was justified in writing the letter to Mrs. St. Clair. Verdict on Thursday of defendant not guilty of libel, but to pay all the costs.

Com. vs. John Prantz and Reuben Prantz, indicted, first count, felonious arson, second count, firing building being a barn, prosecutrix Christian Sharrer. This case is tried in the Oyer and Terminer and went to trial on Wednesday evening at five o'clock.

Not Held Responsible.

The Ohio supreme court has handed down a decision to the effect that railroads are not liable to fire damages resulting from locomotives sparks, provided it can be established that due care has been exercised on the railroad in the handling of the engine. Heretofore it has been necessary for the railroads to prove that a fire occurring within a quarter of a mile of a railroad was not caused by locomotive sparks. A stack of grain or hay located anywhere near a railroad might be set on fire by a tramp, but the railroad would have to pay for it.

## NEWSPAPERS

### MUST SUFFER

The Paper Trust is Squeezing the Life out of Publishers

### IS IT LEGALIZED ROBBERY

Republicans are Getting Exactly What they Asked for—Result of a Tariff Monopoly Illustrated—Era of Cheap Printing is Passed—Prices Doubled Recently

It may be wrong to glory in the misfortunes of others, but then there may be attending circumstances that warrant it. We now refer to the universal war going up over the country from the newspaper publishers, large and small, on account of the rapid increase in the price of all kinds of paper, and especially that of newsprint, which since last August has doubled in price and means an awful burden to the publishers. It means to them that it will consume every cent of profit, or else they will be compelled to raise the price of subscriptions. If they do that, it will result in a dead sure loss in the number of readers and revenues. Under the situation, most publishers are in a dilemma—either course means a great loss and probable financial ruin.

All publishers, republican and democrat are affected alike; but it does our heart good to see some of our republican brethren who have been directly contributing to these things, kick, quirm, and fume over the situation. There is hardly a republican paper that has not contributed to this result in the following way:

For years they have been howling for a McKinley tariff, for high duties to keep out foreign goods. That was put in their platform by their leaders, to mulct big contributions from the great manufacturing concerns of the country. These poor tools will sing any song that is put to their mouths, by the politicians, and now their chickens are coming home to roost in good elegantly style by the advance in the price of paper, which they must pay, or quit business. Now they drink the bitter dreggs of their folly.

During the past year, nearly every paper mill in this country was put in a trust, and the result is that no one can purchase newsprint, unless it comes from the trust mills. The trust has a monopoly of the market and has doubled the price of paper, and are unjustly reaping millions of unearned dollars from the publishers, who must pay the fiddler. The trust is enabled to do this through the protection Congress affords it by shutting out of this country wood pulp and paper manufactured in Canada thus giving the trust a monopoly of the American market. The Congress of the United States has recognized in the press a great organ of public education, and it has done everything in its power to facilitate and increase the circulation of newspapers, and its postal laws and the small postage charged on newspapers have had the effect of circulating many millions of copies throughout the country. Now comes the paper trust, and, by turning on the screws, it has undone the work of Congress, so increasing the cost of publishing newspapers and magazines as to wipe out all profit in their publication, or compel them, as in some cases, to advance their prices. This has been done in Chicago and Denver and will have to be done in the East, and the era of cheap printing and the spread of general intelligence will pass away, because of the tariff protected paper trust.

Here's another illustration of the same thing:—Americans pay \$3.53 per keg in New York and Chicago for wire nails. They are exported from New York at \$2.14. Barb wire is sold to Americans for \$4.13 per hundred pounds; to Canadians at \$3.25 and to Europeans at \$2.20. And that's protective tariff.

This is the kind of legislation the republican party has been giving to the people for years and the very thing these republican papers have so blindly and zealously advocated. We wish it to them most heartily; but then the democrat who has denounced the granting of special favors to some at the expense of others, and especially by exclusive, unjust tariffs, must suffer innocently for the shortcomings of others. What has happened to the newspaper publisher in this country is occurring in the price of most all other commodities. The consumers must pay extravagant prices to the favored monopolies and trusts, who control the situation, because the tariff keeps out of competition the products from abroad—and this is what is called prosperity.

It does puzzle us why a portion of the American people allow themselves to be bamboozled in these things from year to year; but they do it with a conviction and mad zeal that indicates that they must be confirmed slaves to a party, a blind to common sense, and reason—

mere dupes. That is a harsh criticism, but at the same time, in the face of such facts, is an honest conviction with us. If this is not legalized robbery, will some one name it?

### BOERS HOLDING HEIGHTS.

Three Times British Were Repulsed Loss Evidently Heavily.

PRETORIA, Jan. 22:—Heavy fighting was reported Saturday for twelve miles along the Tugela river. The British artillery fire was the heaviest experienced during the war. It is estimated that 30,000 troops were engaged in the assault on the Tugela heights occupied by the Boers. The fighting front extended over twenty miles. The artillery fire met with no response until the infantry attacked their positions. The British made three assaults and each time were vigorously repelled. The British cannon number over forty. Every time the British stormed the Boer positions they were reinforced by fresh divisions, but their efforts were useless.

### Found Body in a Corncrib.

Thursday afternoon 18th, the startling intelligence was received here that William A. Kerr, aged 55 years, of Centre Hill, had committed suicide by hanging himself in his corncrib.

Mr. Kerr appeared all right in the morning. He was in his usual health, and told his wife he would put in the forenoon doing odd chores around the barn. When noon time came Mrs. Kerr called her husband to come to dinner, but getting no response, went in search of him. Failing to find him at the barn, Mrs. Kerr began a search of the outbuildings, and finally found her husband hanging in the corncrib, he having used a rope for the purpose of self-destruction. When found the body was cold and stiff so that the man had evidently been hanging sometime. He is survived by a widow and the following children; Roland S., Catharine M. and William. Interment at Spruce-Creek on Monday.

No reason for this rash act can be given. Mr. Kerr's finances were good and his home relations the most pleasant. He was a prominent, substantial citizen of that community.

### Bitten by a Dog.

About nine months ago Levi B. Nearhoof, farmer, of Warriorsmark valley, had a valuable steer bitten by a mad dog. On Monday of this week the steer died with a well developed case of rabies. At the time the steer was attacked by the dog several other animals (dogs and cattle) in the neighborhood were bitten by the same dog. All of these died of hydrophobia, the symptoms developing within nine or ten days after the assault. The dog that committed the mischief was a strange one and was shortly after killed.

### VIRGINIA WANTS BRYAN.

The Virginia senate and house both passed a joint resolution Monday inviting Colonel William Jennings Bryan, who is referred to as "the greatest living democrat," to deliver an address on the political issues of the day before the general assembly at such time as may suit his convenience. The invitation was extended without a dissenting voice.

### Gone to Johnston.

Harry Ulmer Tibbets, formerly a Belleville boy, has resigned his position on the Connellsville Courier to take effect Saturday. He will go to Johnston where he has been offered a position on the Tribune, the afternoon paper there and the leading journal of Cambria county. He will be general utility man on the Tribune and assistant to Publisher George T. Swank, who is not in good health.

### Just the Same.

A recently wedded Coudersport couple sent out a large number of wedding invitations, among which was one to an old lady. The cards were swell affairs, and one corner bore the inscription, "Children not expected." After adjusting her specs and scanning the card closely the old lady said: "That's all right, but they'll come just the same."

### Good for Milton.

Milton will soon have a shirt waist and skirt factory. The Milton people will furnish the ground and erect the building thereon. The H. Smuckle & Company, of New York, will furnish the machinery and operate the plant. Over 1,500 hands will be employed. Operations on the building will begin March 1.

Two books could be written by President McKinley; one containing what he said about pet government banks, in 1888, and the other containing what he doesn't say about them now.

Though time tells on the face of a clock, the clock's face always tell time.

## CALLED AT THE WRONG HOUSE

How John O'Neill Met his Death at Spruce Creek

### HUSBAND SHOT HIM DOWN

In the Presence of his Wife—Then Dragged the Body out of the House—Resumed his Work until a Substitute Arrived—A Warning to Other Adventurers

"I'm the murderer, and I don't intend to run away." This message Carl Robinson sent over the wire from the telegraph tower at Spruce Creek tunnel Wednesday morning, 18th, when a Harrisburg detective asked in a telegram if the slayer of John O'Neill had been captured. O'Neill had just paid the penalty for his illicit love, and Robinson, whose home O'Neill had ruined, had returned to his telegraph key after shooting O'Neill to death in the presence of his wife.

O'Neill was employed on the work at Spruce Creek tunnel last fall. He boarded at Robinson's home until his attentions to Mrs. Robinson grew so marked as to arouse Robinson's suspicions. On Jan. 6 Robinson told him to leave.

"If you ever come back it will cost you your life," he declared to O'Neill.

### INTERCEPTED A LETTER.

Apparently happiness was restored in Robinson's home with the departure of O'Neill, but Robinson did not allow his vigilance to relax in the least, and at last discovered that letters were passing between his wife and O'Neill. Robinson bided his time, and Tuesday when he intercepted a letter in which O'Neill proposed an elopement and said he would arrive at Spruce Creek Wednesday morning, he prepared to make good his threat which he had made when he ordered O'Neill away from Spruce Creek. The letter was, however allowed to reach Mrs. Robinson. Robinson went to work at 6:30 o'clock Wednesday morning, but about 9 o'clock he called his father-in-law into the tower and asked him to attend to the switches a few moments. Then he strode back home, where he found O'Neill at breakfast with Mrs. Robinson. Robinson lost no time in drawing his revolver, and he pumped lead into O'Neill as fast as could fire until all the chambers of the weapon were empty. The crime was committed in the presence of Mrs. Robinson and her sister, both of whom shrieked hysterically at the sight of the tragedy.

### DROGGED THE BODY OUT.

Without paying any attention to the terror-stricken women, Robinson coolly walked back to his work, but afterwards he returned to the house and dragged the body of O'Neill out upon the porch, and returned to work again.

When the authorities came to arrest him, he deliberately locked himself in the tower and declined to be taken until the man arrived whom he had sent for to take his place. When the fellow came, Robinson admitted him to the office, gave him some instructions about trains, and then surrendered himself to the authorities. In the meantime he had received the telegram asking if the murderer had been captured, and sent the confession quoted above.

Robinson was lodged in jail at Huntington. His wife's nervous condition was such that she was also taken to jail, where she was made comfortable, and is now receiving medical treatment.

O'Neill was 25 years of age. His home was at Greensburg. Relatives came and took the body to that place for burial.

### Don't Care for Expenses.

Polanders and Italians are very economical so far as dress and food are concerned, but they spend money freely for beer and whiskey. It is only on wedding occasions that they don't care for expenses and the bride "togs out" in silk. The to-be-bride-and-groom and from four to eight or ten friends go to the stores together and select the lady's dress, shoes, hat, etc., and they buy the best to be had. The prospective groom pays the bill. Usually, especially at Polish weddings, a dance is kept up from one two days and every man who is present is supposed to dance with the bride, for which privilege he pays \$1.00 every time he dances with her. The money thus paid goes to the groom and he pays all wedding expenses, beer, etc., and in many cases has money enough left to buy everything necessary for housekeeping.

### Cost of Prisoners.

Eighteen prisoners from Clinton county were in the western penitentiary during 1899. The total cost for the 4,677 days maintenance was \$1,621.36. From this amount is deducted \$452.11, credit by labor, which makes the net cost for the commissioners to pay \$1,169.25.

### FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

She'd read the Scriptures carefully  
At one time and another,  
So, when he kissed her on the cheek,  
She straightaway turned the other.

He rises early and is gone  
Before she quits her bed;  
She works at fancy things while he  
Tolls for their daily bread.  
She wears a seal-skin cloak for which  
Three hundred blinks were paid;  
He wears an overcoat that cost  
Nine dollars ready-made.

You may wonder what you're here for,  
And be puzzled now and then  
To determine what's your mission  
Here among so many men.  
But if you keep on trusting,  
Doing just the best you can,  
You may know that you're essential  
To God's universal plan.

Minute fragments—seconds.  
Goes across lots—the ferryboat.  
Boxing matches—in the match factory.  
An original drawer—the first dentist.  
The miser is known by the money he keeps.

Beauty kills time and time kills beauty,  
A corner in the market is seldom square.

The freshman is always a first-class fellow.

Smiles are merely little noiseless laughs.

A mob always draws the line at a lynching.

The tailor is engaged in a fitting occupation.

The idle baker does not make a loaf of bread.

Even the buckwheat cake has to await its turn.

One bad turn deserves another for the better.

Where there's a will there's usually a contestant.

It's a very poor mule that don't work both ways.

Collateral securities are either put up or shut up.

Lawyers and doctors profit by their own advice.

It's a wise old saw that cuts with its wisdom teeth.

The original family tree was of the apple variety.

Age makes some people wise and others stubborn.

People who are too fresh are apt to get into a pickle.

Parrots should be taught to speak only in polysyllables.

The golden eagle, like other good tenors, is a rare bird.

Some barefaced lies are old enough to wear a full beard.

Perhaps the reason stairs go up is because they are flighty.

Most women prefer husbands and letter paper well ruled.

The quail hunter's sport only begins after the game is up.

Some people are like bricks—always hard pressed for cash.

Modesty seldom shows up to a good advantage in the dark.

There are some lives the lifesaver cannot save to save his life.

No collector can collect the ground rents of an earthquake.

The mercury never gets warm in its race to lower the record.

Though a tool of the English, the auger is in reality a bore.

Talk is cheap, but somehow gossip manages to gain currency.

French self-taught is usually limited to French self-understood.

The unexpected happens about as often as the expected fails to.

Lots of good resolutions have been shattered by a single "smile."

Even comic papers are not published entirely for the fun of the thing.

Money placed in a man's vest pocket is not always properly invested.

A piece of music is often murdered by being put on the rack and tortured.

The poet who wants an inspiration can get it by drawing a long breath.

An editor may not need a cane, but he depends a good deal upon his staff.

Paper and envelopes go flying about a good deal for anything that is stationery.

The strawberry may be one of the oldest on record, but there's an elderberry.

A heated argument is the very thing that causes a coolness between two friends.

### The Editor's Christmas.

The esteemed editor of "The Lost Creek Lyre" runs this delicate hint at the top of his editorial column next the printed rates of subscription:

"Upon the recent Xmas eve,  
Old Santy Clause came knocking,  
And begged our glad assent to leave  
A shotgun in our stocking.

Upon the 1st of Jan. we go  
Upon a tour collecting  
With that new gun, no friends, you know  
Just what to be expecting.

While yet our lamp holds out to flicker,  
We must have cash to blow for flicker."