

# The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1900.

VOL. 22, NO. 7.

## CO. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Irregularities in the Commissioners Office Alleged.

## COMS. ANNUAL STATEMENT

Issued this Week—Some Peculiar Bookkeeping that Indicate False Entries and Padded "Cash Balances"—The Dog Tax Used for County Purposes—Officers Surcharged.

To the Honorable the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre county:

"The undersigned auditors of Centre county, having examined the accounts of the several officers, beg leave to report as follows:

Your auditors met at the court house, on Monday, January 1st, and organized by electing William H. Tibbens, president; John H. Beck, secretary; W. Miles Walker, clerk; and Portney & Walker, attorneys. Notice was duly served upon the several officials to produce their book of accounts, papers, vouchers, minutes, etc. Harrison Kline treasurer's accounts were examined carefully and found to be correct, except that the commissioner's "receipt book" shows that on the 12th day of January, A. D., 1899, he received eight thousand three hundred and sixty-three and forty-one one hundredth dollars (\$8,363 41) with which amount, your auditors find, that he neither charged himself nor credited to the county fund in the accounts of the year 1899.

The accounts of Thomas W. Fisher, M. F. Riddle and Daniel Heckman, late commissioners, were next carefully examined. Inaccuracies and errors found were called to their attention and explanations were made by them.

Your auditors object to the payment of sundry bills of Commonwealth cost and care of indigent persons (hereinafter set forth) which we verily believe to be unwarranted and, therefore, have surcharged them to the board; also, we find that the time book shows that they have charged for days when only one member was present (no. days hereinafter set forth) which your auditors believe to be a correct item of surcharge.

The minutes of the office proceedings were not as full and complete as they should be, in many instances do not contain important transactions of business and in some cases do not agree with contracts made.

There has not been a careful scrutiny of bills and accounts in relation to over charges as we think should have been exercised. Assessor's bills in many cases show a large increase. Bills for rooms in which to hold elections are in many instances excessive and the establishment of uniformity in allowance, as near as possible, is recommended.

With these remarks we submit the following statement of the county expenditures for the past year for which orders have been drawn by the late board of commissioners.

Following the above the auditors include a statement of the accounts of the various officers of the county, which is embodied practically in the supplement enclosed in this issue and sent out by the county commissioners. The report of the auditors has caused some of the county officials to grow wrothy. Quite a number of them have been surcharged in their accounts, and especially the last board of county commissioners who are surcharged \$185 for time when the board was not in session and for passing bills that were not allowable. The commissioners claim that they will appeal the same to court.

Another matter that has created some comment is that the last commissioners board made false entries in their "Cash Account." It seems in the past year they included \$7,000 in their cash account and entered a receipt, dated December 30, 1899, that amount, when the money did not arrive from the State until the present board was in office. They took credit for "cash on hand" that they did not have, and made a false entry in the receipt book to hide the transaction, and in this way they could make a big showing of ready cash, that was only on paper.

The same thing was done the previous year in their report, where they claimed \$8,363 41 cash, from the state, Dec. 30, 1898, that was not received until two weeks later, Jan. 12, 1899. That was done for political capital, to make a big showing of "cash on hand," for effect in the campaign in which they were seeking a re-election.

This republican board twice put out false statements in this way, claiming "cash on hand" that was not in the treasurer's hands, but should have been counted as "assets," instead of "cash on hand." The records at Harrisburg will show that they sent these monies back to the county in January. These commissioners, Riddle and Fisher, in the previous December received for it, before

they had it, and included it in their "cash on hand" in their report.

The assets of the county last year were \$23,472 12, and this year they are \$24,229 18, or a gain of only \$756 94 in the past year, which is very small. Then we are told that there are a large lot of bills not accounted for, and some that we know of which, if paid, would have reduced the sum. Another item deserves attention and that is the sheep account. In the last campaign there was complaint that the commissioners were collecting an excessive dog tax and utilizing the money for paying county orders. The statement this year shows that they paid \$917.50 for sheep killed and had \$1032.81 left over, \$832 80 of which was turned over to the county to pay county orders and \$200.01 kept in the sheep fund. The point about that is that it again demonstrates what this paper said last fall—that the county commissioners were over-taxing the dog owners, and using the money for paying county orders; collecting about twice too much dog tax.

The criticism of the auditors in regard to the apparent disposition of assessors to increase their salary to extravagant sums is well taken. There are other matters that deserve criticism that will receive attention later.

## LOUISIANA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

An interesting debate took place in the Senate the other day respecting the action of the Government in the case of the Louisiana purchase and its present course in relation to the Spanish islands. Senator Lodge made the claim that the annexation of Louisiana was made under equal disregard of the right of self-government as in the case of the Philippines, where no right, present or prospective, is held out of participation on equal terms in a representative government.

We believe Congressman "Joe" Sibley in his imperialist speech did the same comparing the Jeffersonian purchase with the McKinley grab and conquest.

So far as the Senate debate was concerned the question was settled by Senator Pettigrew reading this section of the treaty by which Louisiana was acquired by Jefferson. It provides—

"That the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of the citizens of the United States, and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion which they profess."

But when we annexed the Philippines under the McKinley regime we instantly passed through Congress the annexed resolution:

"Resolved, etc., That by the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain it is not intended to incorporate the inhabitants of the Philippine islands into citizenship of the United States, nor is it intended to permanently annex the said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States."

This resolution marks the line of complete and absolute departure from every treaty we had hitherto made in the acquisition of territory. It clearly foreshadowed an imperial and colonial policy. The seizure of the Philippines no more resembled the Louisiana acquisition than the Sermon on the Mount is patterned after his Satanic majesty.

## Fatal Hunt.

Saturday morning, February 5, Samuel, a 10-year-old son of James Williams, of Lawrence township, Clearfield county, went out hunting with an older brother. The boy was anxious to kill a rabbit, and after the older boy had shot one, another was sighted and Samuel went to get on top of a slippery log when the gun slipped and striking the log was discharged, the load entering his left side and passing through his heart.

## Enterprise.

"The Evening Bulletin" Philadelphia, has entered upon a great news enterprise in arranging for special correspondence by cable covering all parts of the world. More than 100 correspondents have been appointed, who will transmit news of special interest to Americans from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia and the Philippines. We know of no such ambitious news service heretofore organized for an evening newspaper.

## A Peculiar Accident.

Stewart Lang was painfully burned at McConnellstown, Huntingdon county, recently. While engaged in doing some work on a blacksmith's anvil sparks were carried to an open can of powder and an explosion resulted. His hand and face are the most seriously affected. His clothing took fire, but he saved himself from a horrible death by jumping into a nearby creek.

The Judge never sits on the jury, but he frequently calls the attorneys down. The dollar you pay back looks three times as large as the one you borrowed.

## COUNTY FAIR ORGANIZED

Funds Subscribed and Desirable Location Secured

## A HALF-MILE RACE COURSE

Buildings and track to be completed at once — Located close to Bellefonte and railroads—Will be a go this time—Will be a Great Success.

We are to have a County Fair at Bellefonte, and that is no joke! It is years since the old fair was in existence and since then there has been constant agitation by our people for its re-organization. The horse men want a race course to speed their flyers, the business men think it would be a good investment for the town, the farmers think it a good thing to have an annual exhibit of their stock and crops. Everybody seemed anxious for a fairground, but there always was something standing in the way for securing it until now.

During the past few months the project was taken under consideration by a number of our business men and private individuals. There is a sufficient amount of money subscribed, so there will be no financial difficulties. The one great trouble in the past was the selection of a suitable location. Level ground in this neck of woods is a scarce article and it is hard to find a tract of ground close to Bellefonte upon which a race course could be built. During the past few weeks a number of locations were surveyed with this purpose in view and only one seemed to answer all the requirements, and that is the Valentine property, south of Bellefonte, and adjoining the borough. It is a tract of about 20 acres, or more if desired, lying close to the Nittany V. R. R., and can be easily reached also by the Penna. R. R. and the Central R. R. of Pa. It is directly west of the Albert Owens home and embraces a ravine and a side hill. The track of a half-mile will require a large fill at the lower part of the ravine, while the slope will give a complete view of the course and be a splendid location for the exhibition buildings. At the top there is a stretch of woods that will afford ample shade. The reservoir of the town is close and there will be no trouble occasioned for water supply.

The location is not more than about one mile from the Court House and as it can be reached by both railroad companies, has good drainage, and all other desirable features, the new organization was wise in selecting this place for the enterprise.

This information is given out upon the most reliable authority and with the assurance that operations for the building of the track and the erection of suitable buildings will begin as soon as possible and to be completed by early summer.

## Three Children Drowned.

Three children of Jos. Tenna, a miner of Snow Shoe, were drowned Sunday in Sandy Creek. They ranged from 5 to 9 years of age. They left their house in the morning, and, as the mother thought they were visiting neighbors, she was not annoyed by their absence. As they did not return by evening, search was instituted. The hats of the boys were found along the banks of Sandy Creek. It is supposed that their sister fell into the water, and that in attempting to save her the boys also lost their lives. The bodies were recovered Sunday night.

## Expensive.

Official figures given out at Washington state the total cost of the war in the Philippines, including the \$20,000,000 paid Spain, now amounts to \$155,000,000. Then there is to be added to this 1,500 Americans killed or died of disease and wounds. And what is it all about? Can any one tell? One theory is that the war is for dollars and cents, and another that it is because of "duty" and "destiny" and Divine Providence.

## Guilty of Manslaughter.

The Harmon murder case came to a close in the Clearfield court Friday evening, by the jury bringing in a verdict finding the defendant guilty of manslaughter. Harmon, it will be remembered, threw a weight at Ezekiel Hewitt in his store at Penfield last summer.

## Plant Resumes at Lock Haven.

The announcement was made this week that the old clay works plant at Lock Haven will soon be put in operation manufacturing sewer pipes. The plant will be operated by L. M. Patterson & Co., of that city, and at the start will employ about seventy-five men.

The book-keeper may not have been born to rule, but he does it just the same.

## WRECK AT GORTON HEIGHTS.

One of the worst smashups ever occurring on the Beech Creek railroad happened near Gorton Heights, on Thursday morning 8th, causing the deaths of Martin McFarland of Jersey Shore, engineer, aged 33 years, unmarried; Oliver C. Bennett of No. 1675 Andrews' Place, Williamsport, engineer, 45 years old, married; M. S. McAlvine of Jersey Shore, fireman, married only about two months ago, and injuring John Linquist of Jersey Shore, brakeman, slightly about the head; Michael Kane of Jersey Shore, fireman, cut about the limbs and body; Thomas Creighton of Jersey Shore, brakeman, slightly bruised.

## HOW THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED.

The story of how the smashup occurred is as follows:

The first section of train No. 4, was waiting on side track at Gorton Heights, with orders to remain there until the second section of train No. 1, west-bound, should pass. After the first section of train No. 1 had passed, Engineer Bennett pulled his train out of the siding and continued his trip eastward, soon acquiring a speed of 20 miles per hour. He had his train well under control and had not the least thought of danger. Neither the engineer nor the conductor seem to have understood the order. The night was still pitch dark and a slow drizzling rain made it impossible to hear a sound at any distance. All the time section two of train No. 1 was coming steadily against Bennett's train at an equal rate of speed.

## DANGER AHEAD.

Fireman Kane beheld the awful, ominous sight of a massive headlight gleaming full before his gaze and the instinct of a railroader told him what it meant. In a twinkling he had given the alarm to the engineer, turned on the air brakes and jumped to safety through the window. Bennett also attempted to jump, but the "drop-seat" of the cab prevented it. In a second the wreck was upon him and he was being slowly roasted to death beneath the boiler. McFarland and McAlvine of the other train were probably killed almost instantly. In that terrible crash, coming so suddenly upon the crews of both trains, the engines were partly telescoped and 22 cars were smashed to smithereens. The wreckage was piled upon the track as high as a house, and under all this were the bodies of the dead and injured. Thomas Creighton, a brakeman, who was seated on the fireman's side of Bennett's engine, was thrown 45 feet up the bank on the engineer's side and miraculously escaped death. When found he had a deep gash on the side of his head and was too dazed to give a rational account of how the thing happened. At first it was reported that Brakeman Linquist was killed, but he afterwards turned up without very serious injury.

It required four hours to dig McFarland, Bennett and McAlvine from underneath the wreckage and they were all dead when reached. Horrible blotches caused by the burns and scalds covered their bodies, their clothing was torn and their faces horribly disfigured, while the heavy steel and timber had contorted their forms into the most abnormal and gruesome shapes.

## ANOTHER BOER VICTORY.

British Compelled to Retire From the Colesburg District.

London, Feb. 14.—The news of the day is the enforced retirement of the British from the Colesburg district, under heavy Boer pressure. Thus, at a time when Lord Roberts is apparently about to push an army into the Free State the Boers make a counter stroke, in unknown, but seemingly great force, not far from the vital line of railway connecting De Aar and Orange River. The Boer mastery of the district has caused a spread of insurrection, but this, no doubt, will be promptly repressed, as large British forces are available not far away.

A dispatch to The Daily Mail from Rensburg, dated yesterday, says: There has been hard fighting for two days near Colesburg, the Boers making strenuous efforts to outflank the British left. The enemy occupies strong positions from Achttertang, through Polfontein, to a point five miles south of Jansfontein. Yesterday the Boers attacked the position of the Worcesters, to the southeast of Colesburg. Fighting continued all day, and after dark it was considered necessary to withdraw to Rensburg.

## Wedding at Mill Hall.

A quiet wedding was solemnized at Mill Hall Saturday evening. At 8 o'clock at the home of the bride, Albert Sperring of Bald Eagle township, Clinton county and Mrs. Martha Roundtree, formerly of Bellefonte, were married by Rev. Mr. Lundy. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few invited guests. They will reside on Mr. Sperring's farm in Bald Eagle township Clinton county.

## CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Centre County was 100 Years Old on Tuesday.

## CELEBRATION NEXT SUMMER

An Interesting Sketch and Prominent Incidents—The Centennial to be Observed Next Summer by the Laying of the base for the Soldiers Monument.

The following interesting sketch appeared in a recent issue of the Pittsburgh Post:

Last Tuesday Centre county was 100 years old, and though there was no formal celebration of the event, an elaborate celebration will be held during the summer, at the time of the laying of the cornerstone of the Curtin monument, in commemoration of the event. It was on February 13, 1800, that the legislature passed the act erecting the county of Centre from parts of Mifflin, Northumberland, Lycoming and Huntingdon counties, and though since then parts have been cut off to help erect contiguous counties, yet today Centre county is the largest in area in the state, embracing about 670,000 acres.

Most prominent among those instrumental in the organization of the county were James Harris and James Dunlop, the two men who at that time owned all the land grant on which Bellefonte is now located. Not only did these men work hard to secure the erection of the county at that time, but in order to establish a fund with which to build county buildings gave one-half of their possessions in this place in trust to Andrew Gregg, William Swanzy and Robert Boggs, the trustees appointed by the state, to dispose of to the best advantage. Messrs. Harris and Dunlop also gave the ground on which now stand the county court house and jail.

The first court was held in the county in November, 1800, though it was several years later before Centre was constituted a part of a regular judicial district. The early settlers of the county were principally Pennsylvania Dutch, from the eastern counties, and in 1820 the population numbered but a little more than 15,000. From that time to the present it has grown until it now numbers close to 50,000, while in every way the county has grown proportionately richer, and in some ways more celebrated than any of the 67 counties of the state.

In scenery, Centre county is most varied. Farming is extensively carried on. The Centre county iron ore fields are well known everywhere. In addition, there are almost exhaustless beds of bituminous coal, limestone, fire clays, etc. Twenty-five years ago there were 26 furnaces operating in the county, but now there are only four and yet the output in iron is ten times what it was then. In wealth the county is one of the richest in the state, and instead of being burdened by a heavy debt, has a surplus in its treasury.

The only means of outside communication the county enjoyed from the organization of the county until 1859 was either by stage road or by the Bald Eagle canal. In 1859 the Bellefonte & Snow Shoe, the famous "switchback," was built, and in 1863 the Bald Eagle Valley was opened up, from Tyrone to Lock Haven. Since that time a hundred miles or more of road have been constructed within the county, and now all parts of it are accessible by rail. In addition to these general features of the county "Old Centre" is further distinguished for the great men she has sent out to serve both state and nation.

No less than six governors were natives of this county, five of whom were the chief executives of Pennsylvania. They were: Governors Packer, Bilger, Curtin, Beaver and Hastings, while a brother of Packer was governor of California. In addition, Centre countians have served in the president's cabinet, on the chief justices' bench, in the supreme court of state and nation, in congress and the senate, and as ambassadors to foreign countries. A number have held important chairs in some of the foremost educational institutions in the land, while to-day Centre county people are numbered among leading statesmen, jurists, and in various other callings.

The holding of the county centennial during the year will be an event of more than ordinary importance, and is already being looked forward to with anticipation of a big time generally.

## Purchased 400 Acres.

The Linden Hall Lumber company has purchased a tract of 400 acres timber land from Mr. Homan, near that place, which contains about 100,000 proprs, 300 tons of bark and several hundred thousand feet of raw timber. They will also extend their railroad several miles.

## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

First fruit—Adam's apple. An egg in the cup is worth two in the nest.

Armless people cannot play the piano by ear.

It's a wise fish that can read between the lines.

Shame seldom comes to a man unless he invites it.

The legal light sputters when he gets turned down.

It's a wise child that resembles its richest relative.

Plenty of business drives the bill-poster to the wall.

One little hint is often worth more than a ton of advice.

Cobblers sew tight shoes and the wearer reaps a crop of corn.

The sharper a man is, the harder it is to make a fool of him.

A first class price doesn't always indicate first class hotel.

The umpire and the dramatic critic both passed upon plays.

It takes two to make a bargain, but only one of them gets it.

A man deceives himself oftener than he does the other fellow.

The coat may not make the man, but law-suits make attorneys.

Trouble and mules should never be approached from the rear.

There is no rhyme for silver, but it jingles with gold very nicely.

The bald-headed man has an open countenance all the way over.

When a man discharges his cook there's a hot fire in the kitchen.

One young physician uses more Latin words than a dozen old doctors.

It's easier to think you'll get up early in the morning than it is to do it.

A cat may look at a king, but a man may prefer to gaze upon the face.

Speaking of warm gloves, we should think undress kids would be cold.

You would hardly call the gossip quilting bee a "peace" conference.

A man's credit is getting pretty bad when he can't even borrow trouble.

Straws in the hand of the small boy shows which way the cider barrel is.

The office spends more time dodging the man than it does in seeking him.

The day breaks, but doesn't fail; while the night falls, but doesn't break.

It's no proof that a lawyer is temperate because he "smiles at the bar."

Nothing succeeds like the success of the fisherman who baits his hook for suckers.

## The Camera was in Evidence.

The trial of the trespass suit of John A. Mellott, a commercial photographer, Philadelphia, against the city of Altoona to recover \$20,000 damages, was concluded in court at Hollidaysburg Friday. Mellott alleged that he had been permanently paralyzed by a fall on an icy sidewalk in Altoona, and he appeared at the trial supported by two crutches. Snapshot photographs were produced in court showing Mellott at work without crutches along York street, Philadelphia, apparently in good health and with sound limbs. The photographs led the jury to reduce the claims despite his accident, to one hundred dollars.

## Acacia Opening.

Progress grange at Centre Hall will hold the formal opening of their new Acacia hall theatre, this Thursday evening, February 15th, with a complete set of scenery which has lately been painted for the hall by W. B. Barton, of Philadelphia, and it is now as nicely equipped a little play house as there is in any small town in the country. The entertainment, Thursday night, will be made up of feats of necromancy and black art, spectacular marches and evolutions, rapid sketch and coloring specialties, plastic groupings, gorgeous tableaux, and the clever farce comedy of "Dr. O. B. Dead-Easy."

## Business Change.

Wm. H. Meyer has purchased the store of Wolf & Crawford, in Centre Hall, and will give possession to Mr. Meyer, about April 1, next, the business to be continued at the old stand. Mr. Meyer a few years ago was in the mercantile business at Coburn.

## Axe Factory to Resume.

The Loveland axe factory at Lamar, after standing idle for several years, is to be put in operation again. Repairs to the factory are being made and a supply of material is being secured. The making of axes will be commenced next week or the week following.

## Sent Him a Call.

At a meeting of the German Lutheran congregation, Lock Haven, it was decided to send a call to Rev. E. T. Butz, of Salem, Ohio. Rev. Mr. Butz preached for this congregation recently and made favorable impressions.