

The Centre Democrat.

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PUBLISHERS THE VICTIMS

How the Paper Trust is Squeezing the Printers.

RAPID RISE OF NEWSPAPER

Has Almost Doubled in the Last Six Months—An Actual Illustration—Local Paper Upholds Trust Methods—Sharp Words From John J. Ingalls.

Newspaper readers frequently hear of the recent rapid advance in the price of ordinary paper. To give you an idea of what has occurred we will cite an instance of which we have direct knowledge. Last September three of the publishers in Belleville combined their order for "newsprint" and purchased a car load of about 15 tons. The price was \$1.85 per hundred, delivered.

At the time this purchase was made reports came to the effect that the paper mills of this country were being formed into a combine or trust. They were being bought up, and in the future the output would be controlled by the International Paper Co., now known as the trust. That came true, and from that date on the price of paper began to go up and up, and there is no telling where it may stop. At this writing, the publishers in this place realize that they soon will need another similar supply of paper. About a dozen inquiries were sent out to different paper houses for bids on another car load and the quotations received have set all of us to thinking. The price asked at this time, instead of being \$1.85 per hundred, is \$3.25, an increase of over 75 per cent by the paper trust, in the past six months, and you must pay it too or do without paper. That means that the Belleville printers must put up over \$350.00 more than last summer for the same goods, or about \$700 per year, and the trust is the one to get the unearned benefit.

They tell us that the advance is due to the scarcity of water, that the paperwood forests are becoming scarcer, that on account of the war in South Africa there is an unprecedented demand, and yet we had a war at home that aroused three-fold more demand for home papers than that and all this was discovered since the trust was organized—the simple fact is, they have the bulge on us, and we are getting the life squeezed out of us. We have a tariff on wood pulp and paper that helps keep the foreign product from coming in and underselling them.

This is simply one of the many instances by which the American people are being skinned by these gigantic combinations, of modern times; and what astonishes us the most is that newspapers, who must suffer these impositions, knowingly, will defiantly uphold such systems of trade that are openly robbing the consumers, by extorting enormous profits.

One of our Belleville papers, "The Gazette," lent itself last week to the support of this kind of business, by upholding the system that aids the paper trust in accomplishing its purpose; we leave the public to form its own conclusion of the high purpose and motives that inspire such utterances. By way of contrast, allow us to submit the following from one of the foremost republican statesmen of the times. In speaking of the paper trust Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, in last Sunday's papers, had the following:

"The encroachment of monopolies is now insidiously destroying competition and opportunity in every department of commercial and industrial activity. Even the newspapers, usually so prompt and vigorous to resent injustice and oppression, submit to the extortions of the trust which has recently so enormously increased the price of paper, almost without a murmur of protest. With combined effort they could wring the necks of these malefactors and throw their carcasses on the compost heap of mamon, where they belong. This trust levels its blackmail on education and religion, on the school book and the Bible, on knowledge, literature and libraries, on free thought and a free press, which are the sentinels and guardians of liberty.

"Of all the unforgiven crimes of the money power this is the most indefensible and infamous. If the republican party does not strangle these monsters it is certain that some other party will."

Paper Trust

The newspapers are up in arms against the Paper trust. The American Newspaper Publishers' Association held a meeting in New York last week and arranged plans to fight the trust in congress. The association was unusually Bryanistic in its vigorous denunciations of the pulp octopus. In its resolutions it was specified:

"That the price of paper has been arbitrarily increased from 60 to 100 per cent without reason.

"That it was common belief that a trust did it."

Representing 22,000 newspapers, it called upon congress to investigate and provide a remedy.

SPORTSMENS LEAGUE OF CENTRE CO.

An Organization for the Protection of the Game and Fish in this Section.

Last Friday evening the arbitration room of the court house was crowded with the enthusiastic hunters and fishermen of this place for the completion of an organization to be known as the "Sportsmens League of Centre Co." This was the second meeting called and at this session they listened to the report of the committee upon constitution and by-laws, which, with a few alterations, was adopted at once. The following permanent officers were then chosen for the ensuing year: President, John L. Kaiseley; Vice President, Hardman P. Harris; Secretary, Dr. George B. Klump; Treasurer, John McGinley; Board of Directors: George R. Meek, Thomas H. Harter and Robert F. Hunter. The annual dues will be \$1.00 per year and an effort will be made to secure the co-operation of all true sportsmen in every section of this county. The real purpose of the league will be to hunt down all violations of the game and fish laws in this county and bring the same to a successful prosecution, and the members pledge themselves to aid by any knowledge or influence they may have in this way, to bring law breakers to speedy justice. In addition to this the league will interest itself in the stocking of our streams and the propagation of fish. Shooting ranges will also be erected and tournaments held for rifle and wing shooting for which trophies will be awarded.

It is to be hoped that all true sportsmen throughout the county will encourage this move by becoming members of the same and join in the protection of our game and fish. Your personal influence is needed, as well as the small membership fee that is required. Let every sportsman in Centre county make application for membership at once.

The charter members are Messrs. John McGinley, Col. Wilbur F. Reeder, Joseph Rightmour, Dr. George B. Klump, John L. Kaiseley, George R. Meek, Thomas H. Harter, W. Harrison Walker, John Bullock, Thomas Moore, Harry Green, I. Will Conley, Charles Heisler, Hardman P. Harris, Linn McGinley, Robert F. Hunter, Randolph Breeze, Benton Tate, George Kaiseley, Robert Montgomery and Charles R. Kurtz.

LEG IRONS FOR OTIS.

The statement that General Otis has made a requisition for a thousand pairs of handcuffs and leg irons for use in securing those of his soldiers who have become insane in the Philippine campaign will be likely to startle those ebullient expansionists who have been holding out the idea that soldiering with Otis is so much of a pastime that the men who are engaged in the campaigns do not want to quit. It seems, however, that being compelled to sleep for months together with both eyes open in order to avoid being caught in a Filipino night foray, is not calculated to give calmness of nerves and physical poise. The Philippines are being bought with a price which it is not yet possible to compute. There is a waste of life and a loss of moral force which cannot yet be put into dollars and cents and balanced up against the transactions of the Manila custom house.

While Congress dabbles with the grave questions that have grown out of the Spanish war Otis is sending home for more leg irons, and transports crowded with dead men and invalids steam into the Golden Gate.—N. American, Philad.

A WHOLE NATION AT WAR.

One of the World's correspondents in South Africa, Lieut. Winston Churchill, gave in his vivid picture of the closing events around Ladysmith a few lines to what is the most sublime and melancholy feature of this war upon the republics. He told of the dead bodies of soldiers of the republics found in the trenches—old men with their white hair and flowing white beards; middle-aged men; young men, doubtless the fathers of young families; youths, just attaining their majority; boys, mere children, with round cheeks as smooth as a girl's, and with their little arms clasping rifles as long as themselves; finally, women, sharing in the toil and privations, standing side by side with husband or father in the trenches, aiming the gun and speeding the bullet with a prayer for the preservation of home and fatherland.

It is a whole people at war. It is a whole nation, regardless of sex or age, rising up in defense of their freedom—to beat back the invader or to die.

Is not this a spectacle which should give England pause? Is it not a sight that must evoke the sympathy and admiration of the United States.

A kiss is the meeting of two souls; but when a third sole on the foot of the girl's father mixes in, it's more of a collision.

If some men were as big as they feel, they would have to live out of doors.

CONSTITUTION VIOLATED

McKinley Violates His Pledges and Congress Follows

BAD FAITH TO PORTO RICO

The President Promised Puerto Rico Free Intercourse—A Storm of Indignation Aroused by this Blunder—Prominent Republicans Disapprove the Course.

When General Miles visited Puerto Rico he, speaking for President McKinley, promised the inhabitants all the rights and immunities of citizens of the United States. The islanders gladly accepted the American flag and readily acknowledged our sovereignty. President McKinley, in December last, in his message to Congress, insisted that it was "our plain duty" to give Puerto Rico free trade, so as to relieve her necessities.

Two violations of the Constitution in a single week is the record of the republican majority in the House—a record that should drive the republican party from power. It does not mitigate the offense against constitutional government that one of these violations should have been an attempt to partially right the wrong committed in the other. A rightful thing wrongly done is often as bad or worse than a wrong. When the republican majority, driven by the party whip, passed a bill levying a 15 per cent duty on the products of Porto Rico for a period of two years, a grievous wrong was inflicted upon the Porto Ricans and the Constitution of the United States was violated. Later, when the republicans became alarmed at the vigorous protests from all sections of the country against the proposed robbery of the helpless Porto Ricans, they again violated the Constitution by doing a thing right in principle in the wrong way, passing a bill placing more than \$2,000,000, already in the treasury, and all future collections under Dingley duties upon Porto Rican products, at the disposal of the president, to be expended under his discretion for the benefit of Porto Rico. It is perfectly right that every dollar of this money should be spent for the benefit of Porto Rico, but, as Representative Bailey so forcibly pointed out, it is everlastingly wrong, to turn over to the discretion of one man money in the treasury of the United States, when the Constitution expressly gives the right to dispose of money in the treasury to Congress, and not to the executive. But good may come out of evil. These things serve to accentuate in the minds of the people the attitude of the two great political parties toward the Constitution, to make plain that there is only one Constitutional party and that is the democratic party.

Senator Jones, of Arkansas, said of the attitude of the democratic senators toward the Porto Rican bill: "The democrats accept the issues tendered by the republicans. Porto Rico has been annexed to the United States. It is an integral part of the country. The flag proclaims our sovereignty there, and the Constitution follows the flag. The republican proposition that we can enact discriminating legislation against the Porto Ricans and Porto Rican products is monstrous. We will fight it in the Senate to the limit of our extent, and we will fight it before the people from now until the ballots are cast in November." Senator Stewart, who has been counted as a countenance if not an actual supporter of imperialism, said in a speech against the Porto Rican tariff: "I don't want any territory in which the Constitution does not follow the flag. We cannot discriminate against any section of our own country. If our principles of free government are not broad enough to cover any territory under the flag, then we would better bring back the flag."

Instead of avoiding the collision of imperialism and protection, as the republicans who fathered it intended, the Porto Rican tariff bill seems likely to precipitate the collision, and the republicans to be called on to say whether the country shall give up the Philippines or the protective tariff. If the Supreme Court decides, as many believe it will, that all territory owned by the United States is, constitutionally speaking, a part of the United States, the choice will have to be speedily made, and Senator Foraker has openly said on the floor of the Senate, that he would favor giving up the Philippines.

Almost every leading republican paper in the country has denounced this unprecedented conduct of the administration. Such papers as the Philadelphia Ledger and North American, N. Y. Herald, and Tribune, Chicago Inter Ocean, etc., use no mistaken language in denouncing this injustice to Porto Rico and the bad faith shown. Even "cowardly," "vascillating" and "unpatriotic" are the terms applied to the president by his own people. Ex-President Harrison, a

man of ripe judgment and patriotic sentiment says: "Yes, I regard the bill as a most serious departure from right principles." The discussion evoked on this bill has at last awakened the nation to the perils of expansion and an imperial government with colonies. The sound sense of the nation has been summoned to the fore, and we would not be surprised if it sounded the death knell of McKinley's future aspirations, and later the abandonment of the Philippine policy of aggression.

The far reaching effect of this bill can not be over estimated.



COMMISSIONER M. F. RIDDLE—Died at his home at Pleasant Gap this Thursday morning at 1:45, after an illness of about two weeks. He recently contracted a cold and took to his bed and his condition gradually became worse and death was due to a complication of disorders of the heart and lungs, with symptoms of dropsy.

Mr. Riddle was born at Pleasant Gap, Dec. 30, 1845, and has resided continuously in that section all his life, except during his service as a volunteer in the war. In 1863 he enlisted as a member of Co. A, 45th P. V. I. and was in many of the severest engagements without receiving a wound. With his regiment he was taken a prisoner at Chapin's farm but managed to escape and returned to the Union lines again. He remained in the service until the close of the war and was mustered out as a sergeant.

By occupation Mr. Riddle was a farmer. He was well educated and spent one year at Dickinson Seminary. For over 15 years he was assessor of Spring township. In 1896 he was elected on the republican ticket to the office of County Commissioner, and in 1899 was re-elected to the same position. He was an active member of that party, and a man who had hosts of warm friends in his home district and over the county. He was a man of an extremely kind and generous disposition, ready to share the last dollar to assist the needy or distressed, or help a neighbor or friend in any manner possible. He was generous, even to a fault.

He is survived by a wife and the following children: Arthur, George, Marion and Ralph. One brother, Frank, lives in Kansas. Interment will take place at Pleasant Gap, on—

The vacancy on the present Board of County Commissioners, we understand, will be filled by an appointment to be made by the Court.

WEST VIRGINIA MINE HORROR.

The most disastrous mine explosion ever known in the New River district, Fire Creek, W. Va., occurred at the Red Ash mine shortly after the miners went to work early Tuesday morning. Although the most heroic work of the rescuing party has been going on incessantly it is impossible to estimate the full extent of the loss of life and property. More than 30 dead bodies have already been taken out and the number of the dead may reach 120 or more. It is thought that at least 45 miners are yet entombed in the wrecked mine.

The Red Ash mine is a large drift, and the explosion occurred near the entrance, which was thus closed by the falling slate, entombing a large number of miners.

The Boers in Retreat.

Lord Roberts wires that his army made an advance yesterday and that the enemy is now in full retreat, followed closely by his troops.

The victory was won by General French's cavalry, which swept wide to the south and struck a blow where the Boers were least able to bear it. England is again jubilant over this victory.

Sentenced to the Reformatory

Reuben S. Henninger, the Sugar Valley boy who a few days ago placed a big piece of iron on the Northern Central railroad track near Raiston, pleaded guilty in the Lycoming county court yesterday. He was sentenced to the Reformatory at Huntingdon by the court. The lad gave as his reason for committing the crime that "I just did it, I didn't think."

TWO BROTHERS DROWNED

A Sad Affair That Happened at Pine Grove Mills.

WERE SKATING ON THIN ICE

All Efforts to Rescue Were of No Avail—Water Was Too Deep—The Parents are Grief Stricken—A Very Large Funeral on Monday.

Most of our readers have heard of the double drowning affair at Pine Grove Mills, last Saturday afternoon, by which two sons of Jacob Keller, of that place, met with an untimely death. The circumstances have often been told and there is some difference in the reports. The following was related by a citizen, of that place as the correct story:

The boys of the town had been skating on the mill dam all day and the ice had not noticeably given away. It seems that at the lower point of the dam the channel had been clear of ice some days previous and that the ice had moved about some and at the point where the accident happened two sections had been connected by a strip of ice that had just recently been frozen and that part, a short strip, was thinner than the rest. The two brothers, the one following the other, started over this thin strip and both were precipitated in the water. The other boys saw the accident and hastily came to the rescue and a boy by the name of Gates succeeded in catching Fred, the younger, by the hand and pulled him up and apparently was safe; he began lamenting about his brother's misfortunes, and he either slipped or fell and plunged in, and he likewise disappeared to the bottom of the dam. Several parties tried to wade in to rescue, but it was too deep and the cold water chilled them that they had to give up the effort. The dam was quickly drawn and the bodies recovered, and all possible methods for restoration were used to no avail. They had been in the water about 12 minutes and were cold.

Edward, the older, was aged 18 and Fred, the younger, only 13. They were both born at Pine Grove Mills. They leave to mourn their loss besides their father and mother, the following brothers and sisters: Irvin and Milton, of Pittsburgh, and William, John, Eva and Ida, at home.

The funeral took place Monday afternoon, Rev. C. T. Aiken of the Lutheran church officiating. Interment was made in the cemetery at Pine Grove Mills, both being buried in one grave. This sad affair naturally cast a gloom over the entire community, and the parents were grief stricken with this sudden bereavement. The interment was largely attended on Monday by people from all parts of the valley.

Seeking a Location.

The United Evangelical conference for this district has been in session at Williamsport the past week and one of the matters considered was the removal of the Central Penna. College, for many years established at New Berlin, Pa., to some more advantageous point. They want a location that is not so far from railroad connections and is centrally located. They will consider an appropriation of the necessary ground and \$50,000 for the erection of new buildings from any place that wants the institution. There are a number of towns in this locality that are bidding for it, but they are not so certain of being able to meet these requirements. It is a desirable educational institution for any community, and if there is any possibility of getting it to Belleville, the same should be considered now, by our people.

THE APPOINTMENTS.

Tuesday evening Bishop Dubs announced the appointments. For this section they are:

Centre district—S. P. Remer, presiding elder; Altoona, J. A. Hollenbaugh; Bellwood, C. F. Garrett; Milesburg, P. E. Smith; Belleville, J. Womeldorf; Howard, I. N. Bair; Nittany, H. T. Searle; Sugar Valley, D. Dice; Rebersburg, N. Dubs; Centre Hall, W. W. Rhoads; Spring Mills, W. H. Brown; Millheim; H. W. Buck; Millmont, J. M. Price; Buffalo, A. S. Baumgardner; New Berlin, J. F. Schultz; Centreville, S. Aurand; Middleburg, J. S. Hembach; McClure, A. D. Gramley; Port Trevorton, W. E. Brillhart; Lewistown, C. H. Goodling; Patterson, S. E. Koontz. Professor A. E. Gobble, D. D., president of Central Pennsylvania College, and R. E. Wilson, member of New Berlin Quarterly Conference.

Fire at Curtin Station.

The dwelling owned by J. C. Barnhart and occupied by Thomas Level, at Curtin station, caught fire Friday evening at about 7:30 o'clock, and with the household goods, was entirely destroyed. Loss about \$800, partly covered by insurance.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Low spirited—cheap whiskey. A shell game—the oyster trust. Has open dates—the fruit seller. A chipper fellow—the woodcutter. A down bed—the bed of the ocean. Never crossed in love—the letter "L." The man in the honeymoon is not a myth.

In the algebra of love, one and one makes one.

Where a man has only sight, a woman has insight.

The middle aisle in a church is the bridal path.

A lone and trust association—two hopeful old maids.

It takes three to make a pair—counting in the clergyman.

It is a wise doctor who knows when to let well enough alone.

The jury has to stand a good deal, even while it is sitting.

The man who lives for himself alone hasn't much to live for.

When a man marries a mute wife he takes in a silent partner.

Don't judge a man by his clothes, unless he happens to be a tailor.

It is a wise fish that knows enough to keep in out of the dry.

The next day after a man weds an angel she begins to shed her wings.

A girl may be full of sentiment, but it never shows up well when she has hay fever.

Talk is cheap, but the love prattle of a girl is always dear to the enamored swain.

The longer a man is married, the less he dodges when his wife throws things at him.

Beauty is but skin deep. Some women, you know, are worse than they're painted.

The father of several marriageable daughters should train his clock to strike in silence.

Men may come and men may go, but when some women get to talking they go on forever.

The young woman who is in love should never bleach her hair—for true love never dyes.

Some men's tenderest spots are their pocketbooks, because, you see, that's their legal tender.

The natural sweetness of women and ice cream don't save them when they get unduly warm.

Little girls and boys frequently play together, and the older they get the better they seem to like.

It's pretty hard to convince the father of howling twins that perpetual motion is an impossibility.

Law may be a dry study, but the tears of a pretty woman often have the desired effect upon a jury.

Husband Hit Treated Her.

Residents of Sugar Valley are excited over the disappearance of Mrs. Herman Reuther, who, it is believed, has gone to her old home in Germany. Mrs. Reuther resided at Carroll, and it is stated left her husband on account of his ill treatment. She took with her about \$700 in gold, which the couple had accumulated. On her way from home, she met one of her sons, who had been turned away by the father, and told him that she was going back to the home of her childhood. As she has not been seen since it is believed that she has left this country. Mrs. Reuther is about 45 years old and had lived in Sugar Valley for about twenty years. She left her husband and several grown children.

Business Good.

On November 1, 1899, the Tyrore Shoe Co. commenced work on a United States government contract to supply 30,000 pairs of shoes for the National Homes for Soldiers, to be delivered at Dayton, O., by May 1, 1900. The company, aside from its other numerous orders, has been filling this contract and shipping to Dayton on the average 5,000 pairs each month. The company recently received from the government an order to increase the contract number 30 per cent, or 3,000 additional pairs.

Want to Secure Leases.

The gentlemen who are at the head of the project to put down test wells for natural gas and oil in Bald Eagle Valley, will make an effort this week to secure leases on land in the valley. If the farmers and land owners give the capitalists proper encouragement drilling will be commenced in a short time.

James Durst Injured.

This morning James Durst team ran away, at the Centre Hall station. The wagon was upset and Mr. Durst was injured severely. He was picked up in an unconscious condition and the extent of his injuries can not be determined yet. The accident occurred by the wagon tongue dropping to the ground.