

# The Centre Democrat.

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## AT THE NATIONS CAPITOL

Matters of Great Moment Under Consideration

## THE PORTO RICO DIFFICULTY

Embarrasses the Administration And Politicians are Uneasy—The Infamous Canal Treaty—Republicans Are in Hot Water—Carnegie's Immense Profits.

The Republicans are on the run. Scarcely a day passes now without some anonymous statement, really given out by a Cabinet officer who is unwilling to openly stand for what he asserts. The best of these is a defense of the President's position on the Porto Rican tariff. In substance, it amounts to the assertion that the difference between plain duty and 15 per cent is merely nominal and that being always in favor of one, the President is naturally in favor of the other. Possibly the President does see difference between these. On Tuesday last he told several callers that he really held the same position against duties that he had always held. When this information was carried to Congress, such a storm arose that the President promptly retracted and declared that he had been misunderstood and that he thought that a duty was best for all hands. In other words, he will always be found with the majority if it is possible for him to get there. In this case, however, he departed from his characteristic attitude of waiting to see who would win before he acted, and he cannot now change sides. Doubtless he has resolved never, never, to make up his mind again. This is practically no doubt that the Republican majority in the Senate feels that it is in much the same position as the President, so far as retreat is concerned. Much as the Senators would like to take the back step, they cannot do so. With the House and the President both urging action, with committee reports in favor of the bill, and with an overwhelming party majority on their side, it would be too humiliating and too ruinous for them to give up now. The Porto Rican tariff provision will unquestionably be passed practically as it came from the House.

On the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, too, the Administration is upon the defensive. Comparison of that instrument with the Suez canal treaty, on which it was confessedly modeled, shows that the latter contains provisions permitting the defense of the canal if Turkey or Egypt shall consider it necessary for their protection. Another anonymous statement, undoubtedly given out by Secretary Hay, asserts that these provisions were purposely omitted, because, if literally paralleled, they could only give Nicaragua, through whose territory the canal is to be built, the right to fortify it. It never seemed to occur to the sapient officials that a slight change of language would secure these rights to the United States. Hints continue to come from Great Britain that she is willing to amend the treaty so as to permit the canal's defense, but the State Department turns a deaf ear to them and insists that the original treaty or nothing must be ratified. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, however, has reported an amendment on which the Senate will probably insist, including language similar to that in the Suez convention. This amendment does not go far enough, giving no power to the United States to fortify, but even so it will be a severe blow to Secretary Hay and to the administration. As a matter of fact, Mr. Hay has botched nearly every treaty he has negotiated, including that for the partition of Samoa, the reciprocity treaties, which his own party has disavowed, and the somewhat nebulous open door treaties for China. These last were heralded as obtaining for us the open door without price. But now Senator Foraker hints that in return we promise to grant similar freedom in the Philippines.

The President's New York speech is also meeting with severe criticism among public men here, who laugh at his declaration that all Americans are opposed to imperialism and suggest that he had better define what he means by the word before he talks about it. If it is not imperialism to govern far away islands from Washington, without allowing them any control over their tariff and taxation system and with the grant of only such civil rights as Congress may fit to bestow, Democrats would like to know what it is.

The House Republicans, however, are going merrily ahead, making a majority which will, if continued, soon put it out of the power of the few good men in that party to check its imperial courses. By a majority of seven, Mr. Robbins (Democrat) was thrown out of his seat and Mr. Aldrich (Republican) was seated instead. Mr. Robbins' title was as

good as that of any man in the House, but Mr. Aldrich, who is a chronic contestant, was Republicans were so disgusted with the methods pursued that they declined to vote at all.

As a result of the Frick-Carnegie disclosures of the immense profits made by the iron and steel works of the country, the House committee on Naval Affairs has decided to send notifications to the armor plate manufacturers that in its opinion the present price demanded by them is extortionate and that the committee contemplates inserting in the Naval Appropriation bill a section for the establishment of a government armor plate factory. The companies are requested to submit the lowest terms on which they will furnish armor plate to the government. In case they decline to furnish it at less than the price now demanded they are invited to submit to the committee a statement as to the reasons why it cannot be furnished at a lower rate with fair profit, such statement to give the details of the cost of manufacture, etc. Certain members of the committee insist the time has at last arrived when the government can no longer submit to the extortionate demands. Several members have favored a sufficient appropriation to purchase the armor necessary for ships now constructed or nearly completed. Others insisted if such an appropriation is to be made it shall be coupled with a proviso to establish at once an armor plate factory. The present price of armor is \$545 a ton, although the Bethlehem works has in the past made it for much less for foreign firms.

There is considerable said in the daily press about "railroading" applications for patents, and there are attorneys who advocate this practice, but the Commissioners of Patents in an interview has said: "The shortest period in which a patent can be secured is seven weeks, and it can be done in that time only by the attorney for the claimant conceding practically all the objections of this office."

### LONG TOES AMPUTATED.

One Was Six Inches Long and Over Three Inches Wide.

Up to a few days ago Vernon Crawford, the 16 year old son of Robert Crawford, of Pithole, near Oil City, had the distinction of wearing two of the largest toes that were probably ever hitched to humanity. Their weight, together with the fact that they made it impossible for him to wear a shoe, caused him to seek relief, and the troublesome mammoth appendages were amputated by Dr. Guy L. McCutcheon, at the Oil City hospital. One of the toes was six inches long, three and one-eighth inches wide by three and one eighth thick. The other was a little less in length, but was three and one-half inches wide by three and one-eighth inches thick. They are preserved in alcohol at the office of the operating surgeon.

### CLEARFIELD FIRE.

Clearfield had another disastrous fire last Thursday. The fire started in a closet or in the cellar under the Goldberg & Warner clothing store or the drug store of E. W. Graham. The losses will aggregate \$20,000.

The following are the losers: Goldberg & Warner, loss on building and stock, \$15,000; insurance, \$12,000; Graham's drug store, loss on building and stock, \$6,000; W. A. Hagerty, law office, loss, \$500; Clearfield Clay Working company's office, loss \$500. J. S. Showers, insurance agency, Surveyor Run Lumber company, J. F. Weaver & Son lumber dealers, S. V. Wilson, attorney, and J. Hagerty, dry goods, are also heavy losers.

The following firms were burned out last month when the Keystone block burned and they had just moved into the Graham buildings and had not yet gotten their books and papers in proper shape for business from their last unfortunate burning: J. F. Weaver & Son, lumber office; Surveyor Run Lumber company, lumber office; Clearfield Clay Working company, owned by Reed & Etta, makers of street paving brick, office.

### OIL PROSPECTOR.

Sidney Clark, of Lock Haven, is at the head of a project for drilling a test well for gas and oil near that city. Mr. Clark's plan is to sell stock at ten dollars per share. As soon as \$2,000 is subscribed the stockholders will meet and elect officers and decide upon the location of the well, which will be some place within a mile of Lock Haven. A number of persons have already subscribed for stock, and Mr. Clark is confident that enough enterprising citizens can be found to put up the money at \$10 per share to make the test.

### STILL HICCoughING.

George W. Herr, of Salona, has been afflicted with hiccoughing. At intervals he obtains relief but the attack has been renewed each time. Stomach trouble is said to be the cause of the hiccoughs.

## GOLD STANDARD PASSES

### The Republicans Have Enacted a Gold Measure

### MCKINLEY WILL SIGN IT

Removes The Money Question From The Issues  
of The Next Campaign—Gold Standard  
Can Not Be Changed in Four Years—The  
Two McKinleys.

The gold standard bill passed the House of Representatives Tuesday by a party vote and now goes to the President for his approval, which it will receive, notwithstanding Mr. McKinley's denunciation of President Cleveland a few years ago for his efforts to place the country on gold basis. Every word he said against Cleveland—and they were bitter words—now applies to himself:

"Mr. Cleveland," said Mr. McKinley,

"during all the years he was at the head of the Government was dishonoring one

of the precious metals—one of our products.

He endeavored to stop the coinage of silver.

He was determined to demonetize

one of the coins of commerce, limit

the volume of money, make money scarce

and therefore dear. Money the master,

everything else the servant. Cheap coals,

cheap labor and dear money."

It is conceded that the passage of this gold standard bill removes the silver question as it was presented four years ago, as a practical issue, from the arena of American politics. The gold standard supplants the bimetallic standard. The money of final redemption is gold and gold only. Under the condition of the laws as they existed before the passage of this bill it was within the power of the secretary of the treasury, under the orders of the President, to have redeemed United States bonds or greenbacks in gold or silver at his discretion, precisely as Secretary Sherman threatened to do after the resumption of specie payments in 1878, or as Secretary Manning threatened in Cleveland's first administration on the prospect of a raid on the treasury for gold in the redemption of greenbacks. This executive power is destroyed by the gold standard bill. The outstanding bonds, the greenbacks and the silver treasury notes are made redeemable in gold. They amount in round numbers to some \$1,400,000,000. On this vast indebtedness the gold standard bill changes the terms of the contract. In other words, it is repudiation in the interest of the creditor. The discretionary power hitherto resident with the executive to pay either gold or silver has been abrogated. If Mr. Bryan were president he could not restore the option of the Government to pay gold or silver on public indebtedness. Until the law is again changed he would have to pay gold. That the law cannot be changed for four years is made evident by the vote of the Senate on the final passage of the gold standard bill. It is secure for at least four years. What may happen after four years the people are not now concerned about. Sufficient unto the day. Therefore the silver question for the present, and it may be said for the purposes of the coming presidential campaign, becomes a purely academic question without practical importance. The republicans have got their gold standard bill and have crucified bimetallism, but they have lost that potential bit of humbug, the 50-cent dollar.

The leading organs of the gold standard advocates of the financial policy of this administration profess great satisfaction over the determination of the question in favor of a permanent gold standard. They have put it out of the power of Mr. Bryan, should he be elected, to establish bimetallism by executive order. This is their boast. So be it. We take them at their word. It is true, so long as the law remains as it is. They have the Senate for four years and the law cannot be changed within that time. Free coinage may have its advocates and may be discussed, but purely as an academic question or one of political and financial sentimentalism. But other questions remain involving the life of the Republic and of vastly more importance than the silver issue of four years ago, and on them this year's battle will be fought by a united democratic party, aided by countless thousands of independent republicans opposed to militarism, imperialism and colonialism with the constitution in patches. A great issue has been sidetracked for the present, but it makes the way clear for the decision of more important issues.

In Trouble.

Eugene L. Packer, who was held under

\$4,000 bail on two indictments for misdeemeanor in New York last week was

born in Howard this county. He is a son of the late John P. Packer and a nephew of Ex-Governor Wm. F. Packer. Eugene was mixed up with Alfred R. Goslin, the "blind pool" speculator and others in circulating false reports that caused a great depression in the stock of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company.—Philipsburg Ledger.

## REMINISCENCES.

### Queer Doings and Expressions of Some Persons.

Persons occasionally will do some queer things and make queer requests. We give instances below—from last week's issue of the Centre Hall Reporter:

### WANTED CHANGE.

In the days of the old copper cents, when they were the size of quarters, a devout churchgoer, when the kingleseckel was passed around for the collection, by mistake dropped in a quarter instead of a copper cent. We will call him Jones. After services, having discovered the mistake, he applied to the deacons for 24 cents change. After that he went by the name of Quarterdollar Jones.

### A DOG TRADE.

Years ago when winters meant more snows and drifts, a fellow from Snyder county, knowing that Joseph Gilliland had a dog that suited him better than his Snyder county canine, he tramped all the way up to Gilliland's, near Centre Hill, some 25 miles, accompanied by his bow-wow, to swap dogs with Joe Gilliland, who was willing to get rid of his dog for any other, and the swap was made. Next morning the fellow from Snyder found himself so badly snowbound that he couldn't tramp home for nigh a week with his new dog. That trip for a trade, owing to the blizzard, cost the fellow \$17.

### GOT AN EXONERATION.

A citizen, living in the east end of the valley, finding that his cow was assessed \$10 higher than he thought was right, walked 18 miles to Bellefonte to attend the appeals and have the valuation of his cow reduced \$10, which was granted by the Commissioners. Pleased, he started home; called in the Reporter office, to tell us how he had made \$10 that day. He had not looked into the problem deep enough to discover he had only made 10 cents less on his tax by the \$10 off on the valuation of his cow.

### LIVED HIGH.

A fellow in these diggings whose habits were not of the sort to keep his family away from hunger, made, as he thought, one day, a rich strike, by disposing of some horse-radish, realizing \$1.75. Feeling millionaire-like, he concluded to have his wife and little ones for once to enjoy high-living, by investing his pile in ginger-snaps at one of the town stores.

### VIRTUE IN A CHESTNUT BURR.

A former resident of Adamsburg, in Snyder county, told the Reporter of his experience with another, both boys harrowing with a horse given to provoking tail-switching. The boys bethought themselves of a cure for that sin. So taking a chestnut burr, the tail of the animal was raised, the burr placed thereunder, and the switching apparatus at once shut down. That horse got home from the field without harrow, harness, or bridle. Try it.

### COOL IN A PINCH.

In the good old days when our farmers enjoyed teaming frolics taking crops to market at Lewisburg, while a gang were in the Brush Valley narrows, one of the teamsters had occasion to stop to fix something under the wagon; his one hand was propped on the ground near the wheel. A little jerk of the team, and the wheel was on his thumb, pinning him fast; under excruciating pain he modestly called to the teamster back of him: "Sog, kam emol en wennig hare. Un wan du so gute sy wit, fore en wennig for."

### DUBBED THEMSELVES.

About 35 years ago a district teachers convention was held in the village of Logansville. It was a genial and interesting gathering of teachers. At the close the following resolution was unanimously passed: "Resolved, that all teachers having a professional certificate are entitled to the degree of Professor." The immediate harvest was about forty "professors."

### A FEW MORE.

A fellow had a vessel knocked off to him for 2 cents; finding it had a little leak, he waited a few hours to settle and insisted upon a reduction on the price.

A devoted husband was in the habit of walking 24 miles to a relative for his horse and buggy to take his wife on a visit, 19 miles, to her former home in the same locality. Thus making a round trip afoot until he got his wife home again.

Away back when New Berlin was a county seat, a denizen of the ridge went to town with a basket of cherries for retail on the street. Reaching the court house with doors open and court in session, he entered and halted in front of the bench and bar he sang out: "Wet er karshe cauffa?"

### Large Train.

The largest train ever known to this section passed over the Beech Creek road on Monday last. It was made up of 140 cars loaded, with coal. It took five monster engines to take it to the Watertown summit.—Philipsburg Ledger.

## CENTRE COUNTY CENTENNIAL

### Preparations to Celebrate This Event Next Summer.

### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT FUND

The Different Sources From Which Money is Being Collected—The Contribution From the School Children—Foundation Should Be Laid at Centennial.

In pursuance to a call of the County Commissioners and the Burgess of Bellefonte, a meeting was held at the Court House on Wednesday evening for the purpose of considering the observance of centennial anniversary of the formation, or organization, of Centre County this coming summer. This matter has been much discussed in the past and it was decided to see how they felt over such an undertaking. The meeting was well attended, and a unanimous sentiment prevailed.

The result was that a committee was appointed consisting of the following gentlemen: W. F. Reeder, Jared Harper, Edmund Blanchard, J. C. Meyer, Wilbur Harris, J. D. Sourbeck, Geo. R. Meek and A. C. Mingale, who will meet on Monday evening to outline a permanent centennial organization and report same to a public meeting to be held in the court house on Tuesday evening. A full attendance is desired to hear the report of this committee and consider their recommendation.

### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT FUND.

Additional contributions for the soldiers' monument fund have been received as follows from the public schools in the county:

	N. OF SCHOOLS.	DISTRICT.	AMOUNT.
MT. EAGLE	1	Howard	\$ .46
Snyderstown	1	Walker	1.00
Crawford	1	"	1.01
Big Run	1	Liberty	.45
Hillesburg	2	Hillesburg	4.00
Harrisburg	1	Benton	.50
Centennial	1	Half Moon	.50
Laurie Run	1	Burnside	.50
STAR	1	"	.00
Pleasant Hill	1	Howard	.50
Park Hill	1	Gregg	.45
Cato	1	"	.25
Farmer's Mills	1	"	1.25
Maple Grove	1	Union	.45
Boalsburg	1	Harris	.50
Fairfield	1	Walker	.