

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY MARCH 22, 1900.

VOL. 22, NO. 12.

CENTENNIAL ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Work for the Coming Event

ALL COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Result of the Meeting Held on Tuesday Evening—Every Portion of the County Expected to Co-operate—Anniversary to be Held July 25th and 26th.

As announced last week, the proper steps were taken for effecting an organization to carry out the proper observance of Centre county's Centennial Anniversary. Monday evening the temporary committee met and mapped out the following permanent organization for this purpose.

Tuesday evening, at a public meeting in the Arbitration room at the court house, the same was adopted, to-wit:

President: Col. Wilbur F. Reeder, Bellefonte.

Vice Presidents:

Bellefonte—Chas. Smith, Dr. Geo. F. Fairlamb, Centre Hall—W. B. Mingle, J. Ziegler, Harrisburg—W. A. Moore, Hayes Schenck, Milesburg—J. Miles Green, W. B. Miles, Millheim—A. Walter, Jacob Eisenhuth, Phillipsburg—Wm. P. Duncan, A. J. Graham, S. Phillipsburg—Michael Stover, H. Wilcox, State College—W. C. Patterson, Jos. Hoy, Sr., Unionville—A. J. Griest, Henry Pratt.

Townships:

Benner—Jos. W. Marshall, H. K. H. y, Boggs—G. H. Leyman, Rev. J. Ziegler, Burnside—Wm. Hipple, DeLanne Stewart, College—Wm. Foster, Wm. Thompson, Jr., Curtin—John A. Daley, William Robb, Ferguson—J. B. Mitchell, G. W. McWilliams, Gregg—William Allison, M. L. Rishel, Haines—John J. Orndorf, M. N. Musser, Half Moon—John A. Hunter, Geo. S. Gray, Harris—Daniel Hess, David Keller, Howard—J. A. Woodward, S. B. Leathers, Huston—Daniel Irvin, Elijah Williams, Liberty—J. A. Quigley, Frederick Rahn, Marion—Isaac S. Frain, Daniel C. Grove, Miles—Samuel Frank, John Hosterman, Patton—John C. Hartsock, Dempster Meek, Penn—Jacob Kerstetter, W. F. Smith, Potter—Alexander McCoy, Leonard Rhone, Rush—J. B. Long, A. C. Moyer, Snow Shoe—John G. Uzzie, J. H. Holt, Spring—John Wetzel, William J. Dale, Taylor—John Beckwith, J. T. Merryman, Union—William P. Fisher, R. T. Comler, Walker—Samuel Decker, R. F. Schaeffer, Worth—Aaron Reese, Jacob Woodring, Secretary: L. A. Schaeffer, Bellefonte.

Assistant Secretaries:

Hardman P. Harris, Bellefonte, Pa. J. Thomas Mitchell.

Treasurer: John M. Shugert, Bellefonte.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED:

General Advisory:

James A. Beaver, Judge of Superior Court; Daniel H. Hastings, Ex-Gov. of Pennsylvania; John G. Love, President Judge of Centre Co.; A. O. Furst, Ex-Gov.

P. Gray Meek, Ex State Senator; William C. Heinle, State Senator; John Hamilton, Sec'y of Agriculture; Leonard Rhone, Ex-Master State Grange; G. W. Atherton, L. L. D., Pres. State College; Col. Jackson L. Spangler, Calvin M. Bower, Robert Valentine.

Promotion and Publicity: Hon. P. Gray Meek, Ch. and county editors.

Finance: John F. Harris, Ch., Bellefonte.

Entertainment: Edmund Blanchard, Jr., Ch. Decorations: J. Will Conley, Ch.

Music: Co. Com. P. H. Meyer, Ch. Transportation: Geo. T. Bush, Ch.

Historical: Mrs. Isaac Mitchell, Ch. Amusement: John D. Sourbeck, Ch.

Parade: Capt. H. S. Taylor, Ch. Privileges: Geo. L. Potter, Ch.

Printing and Souvenirs: Robert F. Hunter, Ch.

The time for holding the anniversary, after careful consideration, was fixed on Wednesday and Thursday July 25 and 26.

The list of vice presidents named are expected to organize their respective districts and make as good a showing in the celebration as possible.

ABOUT OUR STATE.

Pennsylvania in mineral wealth stands at the head of the list of states comprising the American union. The combined value of its mineral wealth and manufacturing aggregates over five billions of dollars.

In area and wealth it is richer than some of the kingdoms of the world. It is the best formed in many respects of all the states and it is fairly representative of the progress, prosperity and success of the nation to which it belongs.

In agricultural wealth and importance Pennsylvania stands deservedly high. Of the general condition of its agriculture it compares very favorably with that of the other states of the union. According to the preliminary report of 1899 of Professor John Hamilton, the capable Secretary of Agriculture of Pennsylvania, in an area of improved land it stood in 1899 tenth among the forty-five states of the union. In the value of her lands, fences and buildings she was the fourth, and in value of farm implements and machinery she was the second. In the number of milk cows she occupied the third place and ranked second in pounds of butter produced, but ranked third in gallons of milk.

The Keystone state was the tenth in production of wheat, eleventh in corn and oats, first in rye, fourth in hay, sixth in tobacco, seventh in potatoes and ninth in apples. Taken together, the total value

of her farm products for that year gave her the fifth place among the states.

New York, with 3,178,785 more acres of improved land: Ohio, with 5,128,287 more acres of improved land, alone surpass our state in the total value of agricultural productions in 1899; and these states value compared with the Keystone state in value of production, acre for acre of improved land, all fall below Pennsylvania for that year, except the state of New York. The following statement shows the relative position of these five states in the value of their agricultural production for 1899, taking the same acreage of improved land as that of Pennsylvania:

State	Value of production per acre	Total value in 1899
Pennsylvania	9.18	\$121,328,348
New York	9.85	130,256,486
Ohio	7.26	95,908,904
Illinois	7.23	85,146,338
Iowa	6.25	82,088,239

Pennsylvania is therefore second on the list in the value of agricultural productions among these five leading states, taking equal acres of cultivated land. It can be seen from this that farming, judging by the value of the products of agriculture, is as far advanced in Pennsylvania as in any of the states. According to the last census report there were 211,557 farms in Pennsylvania which were occupied by 1,061,626 persons. The average size of the farm was eighty-seven acres, twenty-eight per cent. of which was unimproved, amounting to twenty-four acres, leaving therefore, sixty-three acres as the portion to be cultivated. The average value of each farm was given at \$4,359, or an average of \$50 an acre.

BOER AGENT MAKES CHARGES.

Alleges a Free State Offer to Have McKinley Arbitrate was Ignored.

Lauter Wessels, who recently came to New York to solicit funds for the widows and orphans of Boers killed in battle, in an interview gave some alleged facts regarding events preceding the war in South Africa. He said:

"Three weeks before the war began I was in Bloemfontein. Colonel Stowe, the United States consul general in South Africa, and Consul Charles Macrum were both there. Macrum had come down from Pretoria to confer with Colonel Stowe. We were talking about the probability of war and Macrum said it was a pity the dispute could not be settled by arbitration. Colonel Stowe agreed and said the republics were ready to accept arbitration. Finally Stowe, who was just leaving for Cape Town, asked me to lay the matter before President Steyn.

"I went at once to the president's house, and as a result of a conference Advocate Fisher, of the executive committee of the Orange Free State, wired Colonel Stowe a message that night, saying that the republics would be willing to submit all their conditions and all their matters in dispute to an American court of arbitration. In discussing the matter with Stowe it was understood the president of the United States was to be chairman or presiding officer of this court, or in his place any one he might name to represent him. Stowe was asked to inform the president of the United States of this offer and to say that the honor of the representatives would be pledged to accept absolutely and unconditionally the award of that court.

"We received a telegram from Colonel Stowe acknowledging the receipt of this message, and a week later I met him in Cape Town. He said: 'I talked to Sir Alfred Milner about the arbitration plan and he says it is too late to talk of that now.' I asked Stowe if he had cabled President Steyn's message to President McKinley. He replied that he had, but had no answer. And he has received no answer to this day."

Wessels then made a rabid attack upon President McKinley, charging that the Boer offer was suppressed in fear of offending England, which country, Wessels said, has had the secret aid of the United States. He concluded with the statement that Macrum was a conscientious and able official, but Consul General Stowe, he said, was prejudiced in favor of the British.

Of Interest to Agents.

Judge Biddle at Carlisle, has handed down an opinion of interest to agents who sell by sample throughout the state. John Koons, of Harrisburg, sold tea by sample in Mechanicsburg, which violated an ordinance. He refused to pay a license. The borough sued him. The defendant claimed the municipal legislation an unlawful attempt to regulate trade by creating a favored local class. Judge Biddle sustained this position, saying that a discrimination of this kind, either by statute or ordinance, is a trade regulation and its manifest effect is not to prohibit an injurious business, but to suppress lawful competition.

From Salona to Loganton.

Minor Miller, of Salona, has removed to Loganton, where he will take charge of the new cream separator in that place.

IS PORTO RICO

A COLONY

A Grave Question Annoying the Republicans.

CONSTITUTION DOES APPLY

If Porto Rico is a Part of the United States can we tax their imports—If a Colony is not American Independence a Humbug—Opinions Of Eminent Republicans.

The question whether Porto Rico shall have free trade intercourse with the United States is the one that is puzzling the republican members of the House and Senate, at Washington. We are told the island is now a part of this country, and the Constitution says that there shall be no such thing as a discrimination between states or territories. The republicans want a tariff to keep out the sugar and tobacco from that island for the benefit of the sugar and tobacco trusts, who usually contribute to the political campaigns so liberally.

President McKinley has wabbled all around the question and now is willing to abide by anything congress does, so as to shift the responsibility on some one else, after having urged congress to pass the 15 per cent tariff against Porto Rico. The following utterances, by prominent republicans on this question, are significant.

EX-SPEAKER REED.

The attempt to make three-quarter citizens out of the Porto Ricans is certainly original.—Ex-Speaker Reed.

EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON.

"I regard the bill (the Porto Rican tariff) as a most serious departure from the right principles."

"UNDER ONE FLAG."

Our flag does not mean one thing here and another thing in Cuba or Porto Rico.—President, McKinley to 20,000 Methodists at Ocean Grove on August 25, 1899.

SENATOR HOAR.

A duty on exports is forbidden by the constitution, and the proposed duty of 15 per cent on goods from the United States and Porto Rico would be a violation of that prohibition.—Senator George Frisbie Hoar.

SENATOR DAVIS.

What is the reason that this tariff rate, anomalous, unheard of, unprecedented, and temporary, should be applied to Porto Rico while the other day a bill was passed in the other house appropriating \$2,000,000 for Porto Rico from the treasury?—Senator Cushman K. Davis.

GEN. MILES' PROMISES.

Porto Rico under the American flag will enjoy the same privileges and the same immunities as the citizens of the United States and Territories of the Union.—From General Miles' proclamation on invading the island.

EX-SENATOR EDMUNDS SPEAKS.

I believe that the Porto Rican tariff bill is clearly unconstitutional and violates all our agreements with and pledges to the Porto Ricans. If I were in the Senate I should certainly vote against it.—Ex-Senator Edmunds.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR'S VIEWS.

The highest considerations of justice and good faith demand that we should not disappoint the confident expectation of sharing in our prosperity with which the people of Porto Rico so gladly transferred their allegiance to the United States. We should treat the interests of this people as our own. I wish most strongly to urge that the customs duties between Porto Rico and the United States be removed.—Secretary of War Root in his annual report.

"PLAIN DUTY" TO PORTO RICO.

President McKinley's message to Congress.

Since the session Porto Rico has been denied the principal markets she had long enjoyed, and our tariffs have been continued against her products as when she was under Spanish sovereignty. The markets of Spain are closed to her products except upon terms to which the commerce of all nations is subjected. The island of Cuba, which used to buy her cattle and tobacco without customs duties, now imposes the same duties upon these products as from any other country entering her ports. She has, therefore, lost her free intercourse with Spain and Cuba, without any compensating benefits in this market. Her coffee was little known and not in use by our people and, therefore, there was no demand here for this one of her chief products. The markets of the United States should be opened up to her products. Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets.

EX-SECRETARY SHERMAN.

The Hon. John Sherman has been talking again and Republicans can find

no consolation in what he says. Here it is: "I would hate to see McKinley defeated because of his foreign policy. I fear that he will be. This policy cannot be sustained in morals, and is in contravention to the declaration of independence and the teachings of the brave men who signed the document."

FROZEN DOG AND QUAIL.

Fish stories are not in season and snakes are still dormant, but a chap down in Sanbury has relieved the monotony by a first class cold-weather adventure that is a posey in its line and beats everything heard of this season. We think that if a liars club were organized in that section he would be made an honorary member by virtue of the wonderful tale invented by him. The following is clever and amusing, and shows some real ability in its line:

There is on an exhibition at Kessler's hotel in Northumberland, says the Sanbury Daily, a tableau group of a setter dog and a dozen quail, in the attitude usually assumed by birds and dogs when brought into close quarters in the woods.

The exhibition has attracted much attention, though the warmer weather may spoil it soon. The dog belonged to Burgess Thomas Kessler.

During the very cold weather just after the beginning of February, Burgess Kessler took a young setter out to the woods to give him an outing, thinking that he might see a few birds and further the work of training the setter. He took no gun. It was the closed season for game birds.

While going up the ravine at Blue hill (it was extremely cold on account of the sharp wind) Burgess Kessler missed the dog. He hunted for half an hour, but could find no trace of the animal. He returned home, thinking that the dog had preceded him, but the animal was not there. Nothing was seen of the dog until Thursday, when the Burgess went back to Blue hill to make another search.

In the thicket where the dog had last been seen, but securely hidden by the evergreens, the Burgess discovered the animal standing, with his nose pointed fairly ahead as natural as if alive. Half a dozen yards away were about a dozen quail, all of them frozen. The setter had scented the birds and stood waiting for his master to come.

The dog, in his instinctive effort to locate the game for his master, and the quail, in their fear to move in the dog's presence, had all frozen to death. There had been no thawing weather under the lowering brow of the hill since the day the animal met the quail. The Burgess gathered up the frozen quail, brought them to town and placed them on exhibition.

Married at Johnstown.

Mr. M. Clair Gephart, of Millheim, Centre county, and Miss Anna Gertrude Miller, of Johnstown, were married in Johnstown, Pa., Thursday morning 15th, at the First English Lutheran church, in the presence of a number of relatives and friends of the bride. Rev. William Alfred Shipman, pastor of the church, performed the ceremony, assisted by Rev. Calvin Gephart, pastor of the Lavansville, Somerset county, Lutheran church, a brother of the groom.

Immediately after the nuptial knot was tied the bride and groom were conveyed to the Pennsylvania Railroad station, Mr. Frank D. Baker and Miss Blanche Brubaker, of Stonycreek street, accompanying them. Mr. Gephart and bride departed on Main Line Express for Washington and Virginia to spend their honeymoon. They will make their home in Millheim.

Mr. Gephart is a piano and organ merchant, of Millheim, and his bride is a daughter of the late Rev. J. K. Miller, formerly of Centre Hall, whose widow makes her home with her son-in-law and daughter—Mr. and Mrs. Dick Custer, of Vine street. Miss Miller made her home on Adam street with her brother—Mr. John Miller.

Novel Coin.

A bill has been passed by congress providing for the coinage of the 3 cent piece which was discontinued some years ago. To remove the objection attached to the old coin, viz: the mistaking of it for a dime, the coin is to be unique. It is to be made of nickel the size of the bronze cent, although thicker. In the center is to be a hole one-fourth of an inch in diameter. This will make the coin easily distinguished by sight or touch.

Elected a Pastor.

The reformed churches of the Salona-Hubersburg charge Saturday afternoon and evening elected Rev. Harvey Crow, of New Hamburg, Mercer county, as their pastor. Rev. T. Derr conducted the election. The call will be sent to the reverend gentleman in a few days. Rev. Mr. Crow is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall college, and has been in the ministry five years.

HUMMEL MAKES

CONFESSION

Tells All About His Bloody Crime Committed Last November

HIS MOTIVE FOR THE CRIME

Angered by His wife's Acts and Threats He Slew Her and the Three Children with an Ax—Took the Bodies Away at Night and Hid Them Under a Straw Stack.

William Hummel, the rag peddler convicted last week of the murder of his wife and three children, made a full confession of his terrible crime last Monday. He told the story in the presence of Sheriff Gamble, and to the Williamsport Sun. Hummel says that the murders were committed about 3 o'clock Friday morning, November 17th. The previous evening his wife had returned from Deckertown, where she had visited her former home. Upon her return the woman told Hummel that she had not been legally married to him because a justice of the peace had performed the marriage ceremony. She also said that in Virginia, where she had been reared, people believed that marriage was only legal when performed by a preacher.

ANGERED BY WIFE'S ACTIONS.

Hummel says that his wife asserted that if she was not legally married she intended to make him give up his property or she would cause his arrest. The woman stated that three men at Deckertown had advised her to have her husband arrested. In his confession Hummel gives the names of the Deckertown men. Hummel says that the behavior of his wife angered him and he brooded over the matter after he and his wife had retired. The couple conversed angrily until 3 o'clock, when, Hummel alleged, his wife asserted that she had obtained possession of \$35 which had been hidden in a clock. Hummel got out of bed and investigated and his savings were gone. He said that made him awful mad. He went to the door and found a short-handled axe. Rushing up stairs, he struck his wife with the axe. He killed the baby next. The child was curled up alongside of its mother. The other two children were awake upon another bed. Hummel went over and first killed the little boy and then the girl, Hummel says that none of the victims made an outcry and the whole deed was accomplished in less than a minute.

"The two children heard me strike their mother with the axe," said Hummel, "and I think they were scared, because I was angry at the time and did not notice everything closely. After I killed them I was sorry for what I had done. I took the axe to the door and threw it as far as I could. I wanted to get it out of my sight."

BURIED BODIES IN STRAW.

Hummel denies that the axe was the one produced in court. The doomed man finished his confession by telling how he had disposed of the bodies of his victims. He hauled the four bodies to the straw stack in his wagon and buried the remains of his wife and two children under the straw. In his excitement he forgot about the baby until he got home, and then he buried the child in the stable. Hummel visited the straw stack several days afterwards and discovered that the head of the boy was uncovered. In full view of the road he piled straw over the body while people were passing in the vicinity. Hummel says that every night since the murder he has awakened at 3 o'clock, at which time he did the killing, no matter how soundly he is sleeping. He says he is not afraid and he is only downcast because he is in jail.

Varner-Bathurst.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Henderson, in Antis township, one mile south of Bellwood, Blair Co., Pa., March 15, by Rev. Chas. A. Walker, pastor of the Logan's Valley Baptist church, Bellwood, Mr. Wilson Varner, of Swales, Juniata Co. and Miss Lida Bathurst, of Curtin, were united in marriage. Mr. Varner is employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in the Juniata shops, and the bride has many friends in Curtin who will be happy to extend their congratulations. After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Varner will reside at Pinecroft (Sabbath Rest P. O.) Blair Co.

Sugar Valley Weddings.

The following parties were married by Rev. Charles B. Russell, Loganton. At Booneville, March 7th, John W. Kleckner and Maud M. Kahl, both of Booneville. At the parsonage, March 11th, Christian N. Bixel, of Crawford township, and Fanny C. Herr, of Youngdale. At the parsonage, March 16th, Jefferson B. Herb and Cora M. Schwenk, both of Greene township.

Church Damaged by Fire.

The new Disciple church at Howard, Sunday, was damaged by fire to the amount of about \$500. The flames originated from a defective flue. About 1 o'clock they broke out, and before they were extinguished the entire upper portion of the building was burned. The interior was also damaged by water. The loss is covered by insurance.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

She wrote a charming little verse, Just sixteen lines and sweetly terse; She sent it done in elite blue To a paper in St. Louis; And when it came back marked "Decline d" It almost caused the tears to blind; For there it was in brazen blue: "Your feet will never, never do!"

Get it checked—your grip. Works well—the pump handle. Thrive in the spring—bedbugs. For airy tunes—wind instruments. Takes a light lunch—the fire eater. Every wedding should be a choice affair. The chair-seater has to work at bottom prices. Some spiritualists don't have a ghost of a chance. Nothing dispels the mugginess of a barber shop. The front door-mat is frequently crossed in love. Love makes time fly, and time frequently make love fly. The comic paper ought always to have a smile on its face. Some people find it easier to get married than to stay so. Nobody considers it a bad habit for a candle to take snuff. A small matter for such a hue and cry—the new baby. Froth throws kisses, but wise men deliver them in person. When a man gets in a pickle it seldom preserves his temper. No girl appreciates a lover who is unable to hold his own. Politeness sometimes loses a man his seat in a crowded car. Some men's capital I becomes a very small i after marriage. No man is as good as his best girl thinks his picture looks. Marriage will often sober a man who is intoxicated with love. In matrimonial affairs, the divorce is sometimes the wisest part. Love levels all things—with the possible exception of the head. The legs of a piano are not carved at all like the legs of a turkey. The dances they sit out are the most delightful to a pair of lovers. Unlike people, a wagon, to look well, must have its tongue coated. A soft-headed nail and a hard-headed man are both hard to drive. When a burglar robs a bakery, of course he takes the "dough." Nothing takes a man down so much as to have a woman blow him up. The doctor can't always tell what ails a bell by looking at its tongue. The prize in a matrimonial lottery is often drawn in a perambulator. What society really needs is a chaperon to chaperon the chaperones. Marriage is like any other disease—while there is life there is hope. An artificial beard generally shows that it is false on the very face. Husbands and wives never argue with each other—they simply dispute. People who use blunt language still expect to get a word in edgeways. Marriages would be more successful if fewer men and women were failures. "Faint heart never won fair lady" isn't saying that dark ones are easier to win. Cupid is the manager of a two-ring circus—the engagement and wedding rings. The only charms some young men possess are attached to their watch-chains. There may be a cornfield on a patch of ground, but that isn't what makes it an acre. The photograph of a man's wife is seldom a good likeness of his ideal woman. A married woman's rights should be employed in correcting her husband's wrongs. We don't suppose even the most enterprising florist has any egg plants under way for Easter. "I have come to the conclusion," said the photographer, "that everybody has some good points. It all depends on how you take people."

More Aged Twins.

In Green township, Indiana county, where are living twin sisters—Mrs. Mary Ann DeHaven and Mrs. Sarah Keith—who were born in Yorktown, February 1803, and are now consequently 97 years old and both are in the enjoyment of good health. Mrs. DeHaven reads ordinary print without the use of glasses and is quite active.

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