

The Centre Democrat.

Circulation Over 4,000.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1905.

Vol. 27. No. 22.

PUBLIC MEETING FRIDAY EVENING

Called by Those Favoring The Pruner Home For Orphans.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT AROUSED

By The Recent Action of The Boro Council--Some New Light Will Be Thrown On The Subject--Come and Hear The Facts.

Since our Town Council, at its last meeting, passed a resolution rejecting the generous provisions in the will of the late Edw. J. Pruner for founding and maintaining a home for friendless children at Belleville, public sentiment has been aroused to the point of taking decisive action to prevent the consummation of a deal that is not creditable to those members of council who supported it and stands as a reflection upon the fair name of this community.

When the illustrious War Governor, the late Andrew G. Curtin, whose memory we all love and revere, made his heroic fight in 1865, against the Penna. State Legislature to induce them to found homes for the soldiers' orphans, after the war, he met a similar opposition. But he was right, stood firmly for what he knew was right, and in that instance his battle for Right and Humanity won. Annually memorial Curtin anniversary meetings are now held in this state, and elsewhere, by those who were homeless, friendless soldiers' orphans a result of the war. By the wise and humane policy of those orphans' homes these waifs were then provided with comfortable homes, were surrounded by healthy christian influences, and as a result developed into useful men and women of this Commonwealth. Time has demonstrated that this was the crowning act of Gov. Curtin's public career, which stands forth with increasing lustre as the years roll by.

Along similar lines, the late Edw. J. Pruner hoped to found a worthy institution in Belleville. He set aside \$60,000 for that purpose. Remarkable as it may seem, our town council now, like that legislature in 1865, is going to the last extremities in an effort to defeat such a commendable institution--which asks no public appropriation, because it needs none--they actually attempted to sell out this valuable bequest of \$60,000, to which they do not even have the vestige of a legal title, nor can they establish one. Is it not desperate? Possibly some councilmen are not aware of the seriousness of the act, or likely were misled by misleading information from interested parties. All such have ample time to set themselves aright--if they are so inclined.

Over at Huntingdon there is a home for friendless children with only a \$2000 endowment and property valued at but \$4000 which has been in operation for 25 years and has successfully cared for hundreds of poor homeless children.

If the orphanage at Huntingdon could accomplish a wonderful work for humanity with practically no funds--think of the opportunity extended Belleville, with its churches, Sabbath schools, Y. M. C. A., W. C. T. U., above all with the christian women and mothers, all of whom are now asked in the name of Humanity--not for money, for there is an ample fund--but for their sympathy, their prayers and their moral support, to see that the provisions of this benefactor are not violated. For that reason you are urged to attend a

Pruner Orphanage Rally!
in the
COURT HOUSE,
Belleville, Pa. Friday Evening
June 2nd, 1905,

which will be addressed by the following gentlemen:

Hon. John G. Love:

Of Belleville has been retained as counsel to protect the interests of this orphanage, and will preside at this meeting. He will tell the public a few things not generally known in regard to the provisions of this will. The action of our Town Council will be reviewed. Our people will be amazed when they realize what was done. A great surprise is in store for the public as well as the heirs; some public officials will even have occasion for alarm.

Frank M. Waring:

He is cashier of "The Farmers and Merchants National Bank" of Tyrone, and for many years Col. Pruner's financial adviser and friend; also secretary and treasurer of the "Tyrone Emergency Charity Commission" for five years; secretary and treasurer of the "First Methodist Church" of Tyrone, and one of the prominent and respected citizens of that

place. He will be the second speaker. He has looked after the properties bequeathed by Col. Pruner to the orphanage for years and collects the rentals. He will estimate their gross value and income; also estimate the net income for the "Pruner Orphanage" which will startle this municipality when the facts are known.

Prof. D. Emmert:

The founder of the Huntingdon Orphans' Home and other similar institutions, and who has dedicated his life work to charity, and is known as Pennsylvania's leading philanthropist, will be the third speaker. He will give the practical side of orphanages--what he has done and what Belleville can and should do. He is an authority on this topic, will be accompanied by some of the leading citizens of Huntingdon who co-operate with him in this charitable work.

Rev. John Henry Daugherty:

Pastor of the First Methodist church of Tyrone, known as an eloquent and forceful speaker will make the concluding address, which will be appropriate. The above gentlemen, from Huntingdon and Tyrone, will arrive Friday noon and during the day will be glad to meet and interview all persons interested. A select quartette from Tyrone has consented to attend and render some choice selections.

The ladies are especially invited to attend this meeting.

KEEP COOL.

Since the meeting in the Court House for Friday evening has been announced, some have become unduly excited over the Pruner Orphanage question. This applies to both sides of the issue. You hear ugly insinuations, and epithets against councilmen and those urging the \$10,000 offer. Then you hear others cursing and railing like mad at citizens who believe that the orphanage should be established as Col. Pruner set forth in his will. Now this is all wrong. There is no occasion for such exhibitions of temper and abuse, simply over a difference of opinions.

The Pruner Orphanage is a question that deserves cool, deliberate consideration. Every phase should be carefully studied, from a moral as well as a business standpoint.

Many citizens believe that the action of our council was hasty, due probably to outside influence and unreliable information. For several weeks our council has been the object of derision, suspicion, and even the hint of "graft" is frequently heard from people who are not guarded in their remarks. The individual members of council have every reason to feel uncomfortable, being the object of such comment. They proclaim the best motives actuated them in rejecting the orphanage. If they have acted for the best interests of the community this meeting certainly will vindicate them.

The meeting in the Court House will open this question in a practical way, and the purpose is to have this community understand exactly what merit there is in the proposition.

Belleville should not turn down a worthy institution. If the "Pruner Orphanage" has no merit this meeting, and the discussions, will develop that fact. The purpose of the gathering is for the best interests of Belleville and her people. It should not be viewed as an assault upon our public officials, or an attack upon any individuals, even if some excitable persons make ugly insinuations and ill tempered remarks.

For that reason we ask all good citizens to come to the meeting on Friday evening; hear the question discussed. If any misrepresentations are perpetrated upon the audience the columns of this paper are hereby extended for a full and complete reply.

What we want are the facts, and that is something that fairminded men will not dread or avoid.

THE PRIMARIES.

Every democrat should remember that the regular democratic primary election will be held on next Saturday afternoon. For the offices of Sheriff and Recorder there is but one man for each, and no candidate for Coroner, and therefore there is no choice. For the offices of County Treasurer, Register, Co. Commissioner, and Auditor, there are several aspirants for each office and spirited contests are being made by the various candidates for each. Up to this time the primary campaign has been conducted in a gentlemanly, and fair manner, and should be maintained with that spirit to the end.

It now remains for the individual voters to act as the jury, to name the men who should lead the Democratic Ticket this year. For that reason it is the duty of every democrat to go to the primaries on Saturday.

It takes a stout courtship to weather the storms of matrimony.

RUSSIAN FLEET WAS ANNIHILATED

The Greatest Naval Battle in the World's History.

JAPANESE EMERGE UNINJURED

The Battle Began Saturday Morning--Russian Naval Power Wiped Out--The End of the War Predicted--An Awful Defeat.

For days, weeks and months the eyes of the world have been anxiously fixed upon the far East, intently awaiting the outcome of the great naval battle when Russia's combined fleets should meet Admiral Togo, for upon that event seemed to hang the result of the awful war raging for over a year.

Last Saturday the battle began and lasted almost two days during which time death and destruction was visited upon the Russian fleet with such frightful havoc as to seem to have come from the hand of an angered god.

Think of it, only two small battered cruisers survived. The Russians lost six fine battleships, and in all 22 warships costing no less than 75 millions, thousands of seamen, and with it the future control of the sea.

This humiliating defeat now will facilitate the capture of Vladivostok which is sure to suffer the same fate as befell Port Arthur, only the task will be the easier.

Under these conditions the chances are that Russia will be ready to entertain peace proposals which will be urged by the other nations who hope to see an early termination of hostilities. President Roosevelt has made overtures already in that direction.

DESCRIPTION OF BATTLE.

The Russian fleet was sailing northward, through the straits between Korea and Japan. The Tsu Islands are in the centre of the straits forming a Western and Eastern channel. Admiral Togo had his fleet stationed at Massampo, on the coast of Korea, at the upper end of the straits. Along the shore lines useful spy ships were stationed to announce the arrival of the Russians and their direction. Early Saturday morning these scouts sent warning messages that the Russians were coming and entered the Eastern channel of the straits, while Togo expected them to sail through the Western channel.

The Russians steamed into the eastern strait, between Tsu island and Japan, in double column. Rojstevsky, evidently believing that Togo's main force was close to the coast of Japan and that the attack would come from that quarter made his right column the stronger one, placing in it the heavy battleships and armored cruisers, while his left column was composed of the lighter vessels, the ironclads and sheathed cruisers.

RUSSIAN FIRE WAS BLANKETED.

Consequently, when the Japanese attack came from the left, instead of the right, it not only fell first upon the weaker Russian column, but it resulted in placing that column between the Japanese and the Russian battleships, so that the fire of the latter was blanketed.

Admiral Togo had waited for weeks in the vicinity of the Tsu Islands, his base being at Masampo, Korea, refusing to be lured away and to forfeit his advantage.

When the news of the Russians' approach was wired to Togo he made the dash with his heaviest ships from Masampo, going north of Tsu Island, and struck the Russians with great force. Under the heavy fire of the Japanese, the Russian fleet became divided, and the surrender of Nebogoff and four of the weaker vessels soon followed.

Then, in the evening, came the torpedo boat attacks, which sank four of the Russian ships. These craft hung to the Russians like a swarm of hornets. Again and again they were sent in to the attack under a hail of shot from the rapid-fire guns of the Russians, and there was no cessation in their efforts so long as they were able to creep up upon the enemy and discharge their deadly missiles.

It is learned that Admiral Rojstevsky was wounded at the beginning of the battle.

Two striking features of the battle are the subjects of much comment now--one the fact that Rojstevsky was guilty of a great error of judgment as to the location of the Japanese fleet and allowed himself to be led into a trap; the other, work of the Japanese torpedo flotilla, which resulted so disastrously to the Russians.

More than three thousand prisoners and between four and five thousand casualties inflicted upon the enemy, are the results of the great naval fight on Saturday, Sunday and Monday last.

Admiral Rojstevsky and Admiral Voelkersham, both severely wounded,

were captured by the Japanese while trying to escape in a torpedo boat destroyer.

It is thought that many of the Russian battleships were destroyed by being driven over mines, or by submarine torpedo boats, and the swift flotilla torpedo boats.

JAPS UNINJURED.

The most remarkable point of the great battle is that the Japs report not a single vessel lost and the injury sustained as insignificant. Such an awful sweeping victory is almost beyond comprehension. How Togo did it remains to be told, but it was the most decisive, sweeping, destructive naval battle in the world's history.

Admiral Togo officially reports that Vice Admiral Rojstevsky is a prisoner, along with one other unknown Russian admiral, presumed to be Voelkersham. Both admirals, Togo reports, are severely wounded, and were captured on a Russian destroyer, along with a number of other officers, who comprised Rojstevsky's staff on his flagship, the Knais Souvaroff.

Several of the escaped Russian ships have reached Vladivostok, a tattered remnant of the powerful fleet which was expected by the Czar to have made that port.

NEARLY ANNIHILATED.

Admiral Togo has wired Minister of the Navy, as follows:

"The main force of the Russian second and third fleets, is nearly annihilated. Please feel assured of it."

"The reports of injury to our ships are not yet in hand, but, so far as I could ascertain, none were seriously injured, all being still engaged in operations."

WOULD HAVE SACRIFICED ALL.

Naval experts mostly agree that the greatest damage was done by the Japanese torpedo boat destroyers. It is said that Togo was prepared to sacrifice practically the whole of his mosquito flotilla to destroy Rojstevsky's battleships and armored cruisers.

The surrender of several of the Russian vessels is regarded as proving the demoralization of Rojstevsky's men and it is expected that further captures will be made before the remnant of his ships reached Vladivostok.

CAPTURED RUSSIAN.

The captured Russian battleships, Orel, Nikolai I, Admiral Senianin and the coast defense ironclad Admiral Apaxine, reached Sasebo, Japan, Tuesday. It is reported that the Orel and Nikolai I are slightly damaged.

The addition of these war vessels to Japan's naval outfit makes them stronger than ever on the sea.

TOGO'S SUMMARY OF LOSSES.

"Official statement of Russian losses so far as ascertained:

"The following six battle-ships were sunk--Kniaz Suvaroff, Imperator, Alexander III, Borodino, Oslabiya, Sissoi-Veliki and Navarin.

"Following five cruisers sunk--Admiral Nakhimoff, Dmitri Donski, Vladimir Monomach, Svetlana and Zemtchug.

"Coast defense ship Admiral Ushakov.

"The special service ship Kamchaka and three destroyers also sunk.

"Two battle-ships, the Orel and the Nicholas I, two coast defense ships, the Gen. Admiral Apraxin and the Admiral Senianin, and one destroyer the Biedavy, captured.

Poison Found in Many Foods.

Food Commissioner Warren ordered 35 prosecutions of persons selling adulterated food commodities. Chemicals and coal-tar dyes were found in meats; minerals in chocolate, pumpkin and apple pulp, dyed red with coal tar, made tomato catsup, and preserves and jams were made of glucose and colored with aniline dyes.

Money-Burner's Death in Jail.

Harry Sherman, 70 years old, of this place, who died Monday in the York county jail, where he was awaiting sentence for burglary, was once wealthy, but squandered his fortune. He was at one time in the habit of amusing his friends by using \$10 and \$20 notes as cigar-lighters.

Shaffer-Hazel Reunion.

The third annual reunion will be held at Centre Hall, Grange Park, on June 14th. All parties connected and their friends are cordially invited to attend. There will be music and addresses. All arrangements made for a pleasant and happy time.

Not Guilty.

The jury in the case against Mrs. Mrs. Edna Swartz, at Ridgway, formerly of Phillipsburg, charged with the murder of Orvis Farley, after being out twenty minutes, brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Dr. Sieber to Preach on Sunday.

Rev. Dr. Sieber, of Gettysburg, will preach in the Lutheran church of this place on next Sabbath, in the morning at 10:30 and in the evening at 7:30.

SUPERSTITIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Some Very Peculiar Beliefs That Prevail.

SIGNS AND STRANGE OMENS

That are Handed from One Generation to Another--Beliefs Among the Pennsylvania Dutch--Many Familiar Sayings Sacredly Observed.

That superstition exerts a powerful influence over the affairs of mankind may be ascertained by a residence in almost any rural community in the country. It cannot be said that only the ignorant and uncouth classes give credence to dark sayings. There are thousands of persons who do unacknowledged service to the mysterious and unknown, whose training and education have not succeeded in entirely destroying the effect of potencies and charms learned and believed in youth. Especially is this true if the individual be southern born, for the association and influence of darkies may not be dismissed at a word, and there is no more superstitious class than the southern negro.

It is remarkable how generally sayings of superstition have spread over the country. No section may claim to be above harboring any such beliefs, or rather, practices; for it may not be claimed that all believe in the efficacy who practice and observe certain forms or take cognizance of defined circumstances. Nevertheless, there are, as a matter of fact, few persons who care to pass a pin lying on the ground if the point chance to be toward them. Almost invariably that pin will be picked up. An experiment of this kind was made in Chicago, in an office building, the occupants of which and their visitors should be as free from any touch of superstition as any set of men on earth. But fifteen men out of twenty who passed stooped to pick up a bright pin laid on a dark spot of the velvet carpet in the corridor.

How many persons will confess to a weakness for seeing the new moon over their right shoulder unobscured by any bushy tree top? A greater number will deny the belief in the efficacy which will rather see the moon "right." This remarkable superstition prevails in all parts of the world. Its very universality almost compels belief in its potency.

If one would learn the popular superstitions of any community he must have been reared among the people, for if a stranger were to ask for a list of superstitions prevailing in any one place it is possible no person could recall, or make a list of them. They crop out under suitable circumstances and as occasion calls for their observance.

Below are some of the common sayings in a community made up of descendants of Pennsylvania Dutch, who settled in the Keystone State shortly after the colony was organized:

If in washing the dishes, or cleaning the table before a meal, the cook drops a dish rag, some one is coming hungry.

If the dish rag is dropped while washing the dishes after a meal, "some slut is coming, if she is not already there."

The crowing of a rooster before the front door early in the morning foretells the visit of a stranger.

If a red bird flits about the yard and chirps merrily, a young girl gayly dressed and light-hearted may be expected soon.

The crowing of a rooster in the night is a sign of hasty news. Thus many a rooster, by a single crow, has cast a gloom over an entire family.

The howling of a dog at night foretells some dire calamity such as a tragic death.

If a dog lies on his back in the front yard with feet extended upward, some member of the family to which he belongs is sure to die soon.

The screaming of a screech owl three nights in succession in or about the front yard, is a sign that some one in the house is in danger of death. To cause the owl to leave, stick the shovel in the fire.

The crowing of a chicken hen portends bad luck. It always results in the death of the hen without delay, for no good woman would allow a crowing hen to live longer than it takes to cut off its head.

In ironing a garment if the smoothing iron is dropped the owner of the garment will never live to wear it out.

Friday is an unlucky day. If a piece of work is begun on that day it will not prosper and possibly the one who begins it will not live to finish it. It probably is true that not ten women out of every hundred can be found who would as willingly start a garment on Friday as some other day.

If the individuals of a hunting party, in crossing a fence, go over the same

Continued on page 8.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

Wise is he who knows which half to believe.

Talk is cheap until you come to buy a parrot.

Can you say of the rain: "It never will be mist?"

It takes confidence to lend money and it also takes money.

Would a spiral staircase run down if it were not wound up?

The fellow who is waiting for his ship to come in is all at sea.

The average girl gets mad if you try to kiss her, also if you don't.

A diplomat is a failure unless he is prepared to take both sides of a question.

An Ohio man dropped dead while eating a piece of pie. Lucky fellow! He died happy.

When you hear a girl of 16 say she will never, never marry, it simply means that she has been disappointed in her first love affair.

The mayor of the city of Reading has decided that he will buy no more festival or ball tickets, chances on contests, and so on. He states that he has been so persistently drummed that a good part of his income is spent in this way. Evidently he is not desirous of holding any other office.

DECORATION DAY.

Owing to the rain on Tuesday afternoon the Memorial Day exercises in Belleville were greatly marred. When the parade formed at 2 p. m., the down-pour began and in it the members of Gregg Post, Company B, headed by the Coleville band, and speakers in carriages started for the cemetery and the exercises there necessarily were brief. The court house was opened and the program was concluded there, under more favorable conditions.

The orator of the day was W. Harrison Walker, burgess of our town. He made a forceful and eloquent address that was listened to with the closest attention. Many glowing tributes were paid the nation's defenders, and throughout there was ennobling sentiment and patriotic fervor. It was a masterly effort and highly appreciated.

James Shook next recited the famous Memorial address delivered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg.

Col. J. L. Spangler was the last speaker, and devoted a portion of his theme to the memory of Andrew G. Curtin, the famous War Governor. From that he narrated the rise and fall of the great nations of the world and how all human institutions have signally failed and over their ruins the church of Christ still maintains its sway. The concluding thought was that the soldiers of 1860-4 preserved the integrity of the Union. Today the nation is united but another enemy--organized greed, debauchery, corporate wealth, with its influence over both parties--demands the heroic services of brave, fearless, honest men to protect the people. The original line of Col Spangler's address took the audience by surprise and won the heartiest applause.

Two Accidents at the Circus.

The people who took in the big Barnum & Bailey circus at Williamsport saw two startling acts that were not down on the program.

While Mrs. Cole was at work on the flying rings one of the rings broke loose from its fastenings and the lady gymnast fell to the stage beneath, a distance of about 20 feet. She was carried to her dressing tent with a sprained ankle, an injured arm, and a number of slight bruises, but was not seriously hurt. It was a narrow escape, however.

During the hippodrome races one of the lady riders was caught by a guy wire that held some of the apparatus in place, and which attaches had neglected to remove. The wire was directly across the track, and had it been a little lower it would have caught her under the chin and there would have been a bad accident. As it was, the rider's head collided with the wire, her hat was torn off, and she was hurled back on the horse she was riding.

Practical Joke Stumped Him.

A young married woman of Williamsport recently gave birth to a nice fat boy babe. The young father was informed of his good fortune and hastened to the hospital to see mother and child, but nearly fainted when he beheld not one babe but two in bed with the young mother and that one of them was black. He received with disgust the congratulations of nurse and physician, but before the disappointed father quite succumbed he was informed the colored babe was only a borrowed one and the whole thing a joke. His acceptance of the explanation was more forcible than elegant and would hardly look well in print.