

Circulation Over 4,300.—La 3 in Centre County.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1905.

Vol. 27. No. 36.

UNITED ORDER OF BRIDGE BUILDERS

Bridge Companies Are Not Philanthropists.

DAMAGING EVIDENCE PRODUCED

A Few Questions For Our County Commissioners to Answer--The Issue Made Direct--Fairy Tales For Children--Men Know More.

We believe in sticking to the text, and since the attention of this county has been attracted to some matters pertaining to the County Commissioners and their accepting favors from the fortunate firms who were awarded contracts let us summarize the situation to this date:

Our esteemed contemporary, the Gazette, recently stated the issue in the following words:

The Democratic papers of this county start in on the fall campaign with an insinuation that the present board of county commissioners had taken a trip to Atlantic City at the expense of some bridge company.

It is scarcely necessary for us to say that the statement is a lie—pure and simple. Our commissioners would hardly be fools enough to do such a thing just now—*even though they were dishonest*—FOR NO HONEST MAN WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT.

We have asked both Mr. Miller and Mr. Bailey whether they had accepted any courtesies from any one in their brief vacation to the seashore which they took several weeks ago, and they positively say they did not.

In the last issue of this paper we showed that Messrs. Miller and Bailey in the past two years gave Wm. Buchannon, the representative for Nelson Buchannon Co., bridge contracts to the amount of \$3,522.50. That Wm. Buchannon on Tuesday, August 8, 1905, made a brief visit to Bellefonte, and the following Thursday our County Commissioners started for an outing to Atlantic City and this bridge agent cautiously joined them down the road, at Sunbury, on the same train, and accompanied them to Atlantic City and registered on the same date with them at the "New Princess" hotel, and was constantly with them. That these same Commissioners, in addition to the \$3,522.50, recently awarded Wm. Buchannon another nice contract for expensive work on the Milesburg bridge. That Abr. Miller claimed he brought home a receipt for boarding; (when on a pleasure jaunt) was so unusual as to arouse suspicion. We left it to the public to judge why Buchannon accompanied them to Atlantic City, as well as to who paid the bills. These facts, given to the public last week, created a sensation, people were astonished, the Gazette flew into a frenzy, persons exclaimed: "Are these things true?" "Is it possible?" "Ain't that what you call grafting?" "Bridge men make the county pay in the end!" "Can you back up the statement?" and many similar expressions.

Editor Harter poses as the champion for this notorious Board, we give the substance of his reply to these charges:

"Would you believe the dirty insinuations of the editor of the Centre Democrat, based on nothing tangible, in preference to the sacred word and honor of both Miller and Bailey that they received no courtesies from any source whatever?"

Time for this reply necessarily was short and, as we know that Editor Harter's impulsive nature, from past occasions, frequently gets the better of his judgment and as a result facts are not always correctly stated, it is possible that these men are misquoted. To bring this matter to a fair, square test, quickly, we ask Editor Harter to again interview Messrs. Jno. G. Bailey and Abraham Miller and secure from them a positive answer, over their signatures, to the following, which we will publish in full, if given:

- (1) Did Wm. Buchannon see you on August 8, 1905?
- (2) Did Wm. Buchannon get on the same train Thursday August 10th with you (after you left Bellefonte) and travel along to Atlantic City?
- (3) At what hotel did you stop while in Atlantic City?
- (4) Was Wm. Buchannon at the same hotel the same time?
- (5) In the above extracts, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Miller, does the Gazette accurately quote you? and do you deny that you were guests of Wm. Buchannon on your trip to Atlantic City?
- (6) Were you his guest, or did you accept any courtesies from him, on that trip?

We have reason to believe that all this is true, we believe it is true; and if we have been misinformed we will too gladly correct any "dirty insinuations" made.

Mr. Harter it is up to you, it is up to John G. Bailey and up to Abraham V. Miller, upon your "sacred word and honor" to tell the public, if you desire, whether THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT has told "a lie—pure and simple," or has the Gazette committed the offence, or have these officials authorized Mr. Harter to publish something they will not endorse? Your avoidance of these questions justifies anyone in believing that you are afraid to face them squarely that you dare not; or rather, in Harter's own

words, the public will be justified in considering you "fools enough to do such a thing— * * * for no honest man would do a thing like that."

We even invite Wm. Buchannon to answer or dispute the above questions—in situations or allegations, as you please to term them.

Bridge companies are organized and maintained by business men for the purpose of making money—not for the dispensing of charity or even the entertainment of public officials. When bridgemen accept a contract for a county bridge they must carefully calculate every element of its cost to them, viz: manufacture, delivery and erection,—all of which are figured down to minute fractions of cents on the material. To this must be added salary and expenses of salesmen. If a salesman knows that public officials expect and accept "favors," like a trip to the seashore for a week, costing not less than \$100, that much more must be added to the contract price or the company will be doing business at a loss—as bridge companies are generally prosperous, they do not lose money. Therefore bridges cost more than necessary on account of "favors" or "courtesies"—in plain words actual bribes—and the taxpayers ultimately must foot the bill for same.

When a bridge agent, who got a big contract from a Board of County Commissioners, stealthily accompanies them to Atlantic City, you may tell it in the kindergarten that he does not pay their bills; but when you come to the mature man, who knows the ways of the world and the weakness of mankind, and even if the direct proof is impossible, he will know what has been doing. This is circumstantial evidence, and upon circumstantial evidence men have been hanged right here in Centre county. And upon circumstantial evidence, the taxpayers of Centre county certainly will be justified in determining how they shall vote in November.

(NOTE:—In the next issue of THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT will be given a few facts concerning the trip of Abraham Miller and John G. Bailey to the St. Louis Exposition last summer.)

Barn Burned Near Julian.

The bank barn of J. C. Nason, on the farm three miles from Julian, was totally destroyed by fire, at three o'clock on the morning of 11th. The discovery was made by the blaze issuing from the windows, about 10 feet high, and when all inside was on fire. The horses were saved, all other live stock was outside the barn. Thirty tons of hay, 12 two-horse loads of oats not yet thrashed, all farming utensils, 4 sets sleds, 1 wagon, a buggy, 4 sets of harness, a thrasher, and other articles were burned. The fire was caused by an unknown incendiary. The barn and contents were insured in the Grange company for \$1000—the total loss is estimated by Mr. Nason at \$2500.

The State Road.

It now is practically assured that an application will be filed for the building of a state highway from the iron bridge in Milesburg up through the gap to near Rhodes corner in this borough. This would be a stretch of two miles. A few rods would be in Bellefonte and about a half mile in each of Spring and Boggs townships and Milesburg borough. This coming week a meeting will be called of the officials in the various districts to prepare the petition. This is made to the County Commissioners who present it to the State Highway Commissioner. An examination is made of the section to be built, and if approved contracts are let, at once for that purpose.

Suicide at Osceola.

R. H. Wells, of Osceola, ended his career on Sunday by shooting himself with a revolver, the ball penetrating the left temple and coming out at the right ear. The report of a pistol was heard and Wells was found up stairs in a death struggle. The deceased was a prosperous baker, just at this time putting up a new building and oven; was married, and had two interesting children, and was held in the highest esteem. No reason, whatever, can be assigned as to why he should have committed the rash deed.

After a Pardon.

Notice has been given by advertisement that application will be made to the Board of Pardons of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg September 19, 1905, for the pardon of Edson Fultz who was convicted of robbing the Ebys at Woodward, and sentenced at last April term to one year in the penitentiary. His attorneys are E. R. Chambers and John G. Love.

After Road Appropriation.

Many boroughs throughout Pennsylvania are taking advantage of the law passed by the last legislature authorizing boroughs to construct brick or macadam roads, and upon petitioning the state highway department to receive three-fourths of the cost from the Common wealth. Bellefonte can do the same if the matter is only given attention.

LINCOLN PARTY NOW ORGANIZED

Movement Among Prominent State Republicans

ARE OPPOSED TO PLUMMER

Independent Republicans Demand a Change--Will Support Entire State Republican Ticket Except Nominee for State Treasurer

Gradually and systematically the sentiment in this state against a continuance of machine rule is crystallizing, and some practical work will be done between this and November to defeat the Philadelphia Gang that for years has dominated not only that city, but this state as well. The courageous work of Mayor Weaver has awakened the better thinking people throughout the state, and a united crusade has been inaugurated. Some days ago the Lincoln Party was duly registered in Dauphin county so as to assure its appearance on the official ballot this fall.

Monday there was a significant gathering in Philadelphia which was composed of representative republicans from all parts of the state to organize the movement and start a crusade against Penrose and his corrupt followers. Among them were men like, Lewis C. Emory, of McKean; Henry C. Miles, of York; Rev. Dr. George Edward Reed, President of Dickinson College, Carlisle; Hon. Charles Heber Clark, of Montgomery; O. B. Hewitt, of Blair; Andrew A. Leiser, Esq., of Union Co.; and many other men of like standing—citizens of high repute, republicans from principle and not for loot.

O. B. Hewitt, of Blair county, the home of J. Lee Plummer, the machine candidate for State treasurer, offered a resolution endorsing the Republican State ticket, with the exception of Plummer, for whom William H. Berry was substituted which was adopted. Mr. Hewitt severely scored Plummer. The resolution was seconded by Dr. C. H. Hubbard, of Delaware county, and ex-Senator Lewis Emery, Jr. The latter, in a very strong speech, declared he had enlisted for the war against the men who had been denounced by Secretary of State Elihu Root as a criminal combination masquerading as Republicans. Senator Emery was given an ovation when he rose to speak, and his remarks were frequently cheered.

The following were appointed a committee on permanent organization: Lewis Emery, Jr., of McKean county, A. A. Leiser, of Union, Sheriff S. M. Manifold, of York, Thomas M. Walker, of Allegheny, and Rev. George E. Reed, of Cumberland. The resolutions adopted pledge themselves to be true to the teachings of Lincoln and President Roosevelt, but unalterably opposed to the brand of republicanism as found today under the leadership of Penrose, Durham, McNicoll and their followers who use the party name to debauch our elections and loot our public treasuries. For that reason they cannot support Plummer for State Treasurer, who was the Gang's tool and "errand boy" in the last session of the legislature where so many bills and vicious laws were passed.

General confidence was expressed in the success of the Lincoln party, and that William H. Berry, whose name was repeatedly cheered, would be the State treasurer.

After the adjournment of the conference the executive committee met at the Bellevue-Stratford. It elected Henry C. Niles as State chairman, George E. Mapes as secretary and Mahlon N. Kline as treasurer. It was decided to increase the committee so as to include one member from each senatorial district. Provision was made for the appointment of a finance committee and of a legal committee. The State headquarters of the of the Lincoln party will be prosecuted until election day. The Lincoln party will have the cordial support of the city party in Philadelphia, whose voters will generally cast their ballots in the Lincoln party column.

If the late Gen. D. H. Hastings were living he would be in the ranks of the Lincoln Party today. The last two years of his career at Harrisburg he openly defied the Penrose gang. One after another, just like Mayor Weaver in Philadelphia, he fired the corrupt ringsters out of office at Harrisburg and in numerous ways checked raids on the public treasury that saved for our people hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It is the old war against the gang, and for the public good. It is an open revolt, led by men of unquestionable careers and high repute. It means an upheaval in November and the election of Wm. Berry, a clean, honest man who has been nominated by the Prohibition Party, the Democratic Party and the Lincoln (Republican) Party to safeguard the public funds.

VETERAN CLUB PICNIC.

The Centre County Veteran club held their annual picnic and reunion at Hecla Park on Saturday. The day was a perfect one and 1500 people took advantage of the splendid weather to attend the gathering.

There were two bands of music present, namely, the State College band and the Zion band. The meetings in the pavilion were presided over by General James A. Beaver. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President—James A. Beaver; vice president, Wm. H. Fry and W. C. Patterson; secretary, W. H. Musser; assistant secretary, S. B. Miller; treasurer, George M. Boal. Hunter's park was selected by a vote of 45 to 35 for the next reunion.

The treasurer's report showed \$1100 in the treasury. A motion was made and carried to make the club's contribution to the monument fund this year \$1250.

General Beaver announced that the Soldier's monument would be dedicated in the near future and would contain the names of 3,000 Centre county soldiers.

At 1 pm, a meeting of the 45th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers was held with a view of publishing a history of the regiment.

In the afternoon the principal speaker was Judge Rees G. Richards of Steubenville, Jefferson county, Ohio, Captain of Co. G, 45th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. Since the war he has been Lieut. Governor of Ohio and is now a judge of a district court in Ohio. Other addresses were made by Joel A. Herr, president of the Clinton county Association; Dr. L. M. Holloway and A. A. Hubert of Clinton county; Dr. H. C. Holloway and Col. J. L. Spangler of Bellefonte.

FAIR HEADQUARTERS OPENED.

Those who have thought the great Centre County Fair wouldn't amount to anything fall are beginning to change their minds in the face of the unusual preparations in progress. Heretofore there has always been considerable annoyance to would-be exhibitors by reason of the fact that there was no regular place for them to get needful information. On Monday the large store room on Spring street, next door to James Schofield's saddlery, was opened as headquarters with Mr. L. A. Schaeffer in charge. He will be glad to receive everyone who has anything to exhibit and furnish all the information and help at his command. The public, generally, is invited to call at the headquarters and give any information they may have that will be helpful to the interest of the fair.

A number of exhibits have already been entered. Farmers have always complained that the implement feature has never been complete enough. This year they will have no cause for such comment as several carloads are already assured.

A lively interest is being aroused in the competitive township exhibit, which promises to be one of the features of the fair. If your favorite school doesn't get the organ or the charts or the Standard dictionary that are offered as prizes you will be partially responsible for not doing your part.

Her Arm in Rattler's Coil.

While in the mountains near the Buckhorn, several miles north of Altoona, recently, searching for berries, S. H. Kratzer, of Nerberg, had a thrilling encounter with a six-foot rattlesnake, which attacked one of his two daughters, Sadie, aged 16. The girl stepped into some bushes after the berries and set her foot down on the reptile, which quick as a flash wound itself around her right arm. She screamed, and her father came running. He seized the snake by the neck just as it was ready to strike, and beat its head off with a club. Ten rattles and a button were removed from the snake's tail.

Boss Berry Pickers.

If there is any prize extant for the top notch record at gathering huckleberries and snakes during the season just ended, that prize belongs to Joseph Diehl and family, who live near Tyrone. This industrious family, has gathered 2,038 quarts of huckleberries, and incidentally while the berry pickers filled their buckets they killed eight rattlesnakes and thirteen copperheads. If there are any huckleberries on the mountain that the Diehl family scoured, they are not too numerous to mention; and the snakes that are left there have good cause to celebrate Thanksgiving.

—Free shoes at Yeager & Davis.

TOGO'S FLAGSHIP BURNED AND SUNK

The Mikasa Catches Fire And The Magazine Explodes.

CARRIED 599 MEN TO DEATH

Big Battleship Was Lying In Sasebo Harbor When Disaster Occurred--Admiral Togo Was Not Aboard--Vessel Had Gone Through Safely.

The Japanese battleship Mikasa has been destroyed by fire and the explosion of her magazine, causing the loss of 599 lives, including men of other ships who went to the rescue. The fire started from an unknown cause at midnight on Sunday night and before the officers could be rescued the fire reached the aft magazine, which exploded, blowing a hole in the port side of the vessel below the water line and causing the ship to sink. Admiral Togo was not on board the Mikasa when the disaster to the battleship occurred. The Mikasa was Togo's flagship, and was endeared to the hearts of the people. The ship sank in shallow water, and it is believed it can be repaired.

In the battle of the Sea of Japan the Mikasa was the heaviest loser of all the Japanese ships, having 63 killed and wounded. She approached nearer to the Russians than any other battleship. The Mikasa was also the flagship of Admiral Togo after the great naval battle fought off Port Arthur on August 10, 1904, on which occasion the Japanese flagship also suffered the most, but continued in the fighting line.

New Arcanum Rates to Stand.

The special committees on assessments of the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum, defend the action taken by that body in May, and recommend that no change be made in the rates. They further recommend an amendment to the laws providing that any member sixty-five years of age or hereafter reaching such age may pay one-half of the prescribed amount of assessment, and the balance with four per cent. interest compounded annually shall be charged against his benefit certificate and deducted therefrom.

Accidentally Shoots Himself.

John Shearer, a young man aged about 19 years, residing near the Osceola fire bricks works, while playing with a revolver on Saturday thought not to have been loaded, like many others found out to his sorrow that he was deceived. The weapon was unexpectedly discharged, the ball penetrating his stomach. He was taken to the Cottage hospital, Philipsburg, and his condition is reported to be very serious.

Twelve Killed.

The first fatal wreck ever known on the Elevated Railroad in New York city occurred Monday morning when a car belonging to a Ninth avenue local train, bound down town, plunged off the structure and fell into the street below. Twelve passengers were killed and 40 were injured, of whom several probably will die. The accident was caused by a misplaced switch.

Rare Cat in His Trap.

Adam Brittain, in the eastern end of Sugar valley, one night the past week trapped an American lynx, an animal which has long been believed to have been extinct in this section of the country, and, indeed, extant only in Canada. There is great speculation as to how the stray pair of lynxes got into this section.

Sunday School Lesson.

Another new feature has been added to the Centre Democrat in a column devoted to a review and explanation of the Sunday School Lesson. This will be found on page 4 of this Section, and will be continued as long as we find it of interest to a large portion of our readers.

Special Trains for Centre Hall Picnic.

Leave Bellefonte September 19, 20 and 21st, via Pennsylvania railroad, at 10 am. and 6:30 pm., stopping at intermediate stations. Returning, leave Centre Hall at 9:45 pm. for Bellefonte and intermediate stations.

The very fine new dwelling and nearly all the contents, belonging to A. N. Bittner, at Pine Station, was destroyed by fire Monday morning between 12 and 1 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Bittner were absent on a visit and the house was closed up during their absence, so that no one knows the cause the fire. But little could be saved. The organ and a few chairs were carried out. The loss is a heavy one.

—You cannot afford to miss the chance to get your winter shoes free at Yeager & Davis.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

The man who is on the level doesn't go downhill. The average politician denies everything he dare not face.

The fellow who is carried away by enthusiasm may also be carried away by an ambulance.

Thirteen Miles in Forty Years.

Some months ago Captain H. H. Mertz found a land turtle on the battlefield of Gettysburg, which was inscribed with the insignia of the engineer corps, the American flag and "J. Lee, Company B. U. S. E." The newspaper articles that appeared relative to the strange find brought a claimant for the property in a man from Detroit, Michigan.

Through a protracted correspondence it has developed that the marking was cut on the under shell of the turtle in 1862 while the command lay at Tarrytown, Md., then General Meade's headquarters of the army of the Potomac, and thirteen miles from where it was found, after a lapse of forty years.

Captain Mertz took pleasure in expressing the turtle to Lieutenant Lee and doubtless the owner is proud of this unique relic of a personal experience during the war.

Sold Again.

A street fakir sold about 60 razors on the street last night at \$1 each to purchasers who thought he would return their money as he had done on some two cent cakes of shaving soap that he passed out at 25 cents each to "show his liberality." As the razors cost about 20 cents each, the gentleman cleared nearly \$50 clean coin, and the joke rests in the fact that several bought one and some three and four. This same gag was worked here two or three years ago on a patent medicine deal. "All you gentlemen who bought razors hold them up." A case of hold up, a cutting affair, warranted genuine steel razors. Waded in and get butchered, take good sized doses, gentlemen, last time round, everybody satisfied. Goodbye.—Eldred Eagle. The same chap recently visited Bellefonte, did the same thing here.

Hyde City Oil Wild.

Hyde City, Clearfield county, is agog over oil excitement, and a second Warren oil fever is predicted. While Sam Lee was digging a well Tuesday, after reaching a depth of 15 feet, oil was found to be oozing out of the ground and gathering on top of the water. An examination was hastily made, and the fluid was pronounced crude petroleum by oil men.

Immediately neighbors began to dig other wells, and half a score have been started. Several oil wells, the property of the mining companies, which had not been in use for some months, were examined and found to contain oil in considerable quantities. There is the greatest excitement, and dreams of wealth are everywhere.

Making Goo-Goo Eyes a Crime.

The making of goo-goo eyes is now a misdemeanor in Houston, Texas. The law just enacted by the City Council declares that any male person who shall stare at, or make what is commonly called goo-goo eyes at or otherwise attract the attention of any female person upon the streets of Houston, with the intention of flirting, shall, upon conviction, be fined any sum not to exceed \$100. The police have been instructed to see that the provisions of the law are strictly enforced.

As long as such a law is not enforced at Atlantic City, that place will continue as a favorite resort for county officials, who never will visit Texas.

House Overturns.

The house of P. F. Reedy, at Shunk, near Canton, turned turtle Thursday and landed at the foot of an embankment, bottom side up. Workmen were preparing to move it and had the structure propped up on jack-screws, when one of them, under the side at the edge of a creek bank, gave way and the house rolled over.

Three workmen were caught under the tumbling structure but escaped practically unhurt. There was neither a whole dish nor an undamaged piece of furniture in the house when it landed in the creek. Mrs. Reedy had left the house but a few minutes before.

Head Blown Off by Blast.

Benjamin Taylor, of near Williamsport, was blown to pieces on Friday while blasting out stumps in a field. He had lighted the fuse which was connected with a heavy charge of dynamite, but thought it had gone out. He was about to relight it when the fire reached the charge and the explosion occurred.

Mr. Taylor was found with his head blown off and his body horribly mangled. He was about seventy years of age.

—Come to us to get your winter shoes, free at Yeager & Davis.