

FRANCIS SPEER'S
Breezy "THAT" Column

THAT you should look out for the fellow in Bellefonte who is always looking out for No. 1.

THAT there may be nothing new under the sun in Bellefonte, but there are a number of shady transactions.

THAT the Christy Smith, of Bellefonte, are a great deal like highwaymen. They would pass unnoticed but for an occasional hold up.

THAT if James I. McClure, the Bellefonte saddler, were to organize a thinceros trust, nobody could blame him for being thin-skinned.

THAT last week, in Bellefonte, the rain fell on the just and the unjust at the Centre County Fair but the unjust, as usual, carried umbrellas.

THAT Bellefonte has in it several fellows who have more money than brains, and it won't be long until they will come to that conclusion themselves.

THAT George F. Harris, one of the leading physicians, of Bellefonte, says that when a doctor performs an autopsy he is after inside information.

THAT "Billy" Brown and "Dick" Taylor, of Bellefonte, say that roller skates doesn't cut any ice, down at the Armory, but they get there, just the same.

THAT Joe, Barnes, of Bellefonte, is getting to be quite a ladies man, and he says that he has found out in his travels that you can't always stuff a girl by telling her she is a bird.

THAT once in a while certain married men in Bellefonte don't have to tell their wives a lie about what keeps them out so late at night, but it's because their wives are not at home to ask them.

THAT it is said that an economical woman in Bellefonte wants to buy one of Wilbur Twitmore's thermometers but she is going to wait until cold weather comes so that when they are down she can get it cheaper.

THAT there are better uses for the mouth than smoking cigarettes. There are two smart (?) girls in Bellefonte who have been making fools of themselves in this way who would do well to heed this little piece of advice.

THAT if you are hunting somebody to lose you just apply to Frank Kerns, the Bellefonte laundryman. If you go out walking with him he will make the hair stand on a bald-headed man, all right; if you don't have faith in our word just ask Register Tuten about it, he won't lie.

THAT the other night, while courting a young lady, a certain young man lost his head by informing her that he would lay down his life for her. He certainly will if the old man finds out that he made such a proposition to his daughter. The probabilities are that he would die on the spot.

THAT here is a mathematical problem for the students of the Bellefonte Academy to solve but they must not all speak at once. A bull in Alexander's meadow near Bellefonte has 40 rods to travel to reach "Waxie" Straub and "Waxie" has 32 rods to travel to reach the fence. Now if the bull travels one-fourth faster than "Waxie," how close will the latter come to getting the grand hoist?

THAT the other morning the mother of a certain young lady on Bishop street accused her daughter of sitting in a swing with Charley. The poor girl positively denied the accusation. Saying that she was afraid the swing would break down with two on, so Charles sat in the swing and she sat on his lap. That's about the same old story of the way its done on most every swing in the town, especially where there is a bright and charming daughter about the place.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES MERGE.
Systems in Five States Plan to Come Together in New Corporation.

Arrangements are about concluded for the consolidation of 13 local telephone companies in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Maryland and West Virginia into the American Union Telephone Company, which has been organized, with an authorized capital of \$25,000,000.

The companies generally to be merged by lease or through stock control already have traffic arrangements with the Keystone Telephone Company in Philadelphia, and at Pittsburgh with the Pittsburgh and Allegheny Telephone Company. This makes a long distance service.

The object is to unify into one system and to standardize and develop the several local telephone systems and at the same time to strengthen the long distance service, particularly in Pennsylvania.

About 40,000 telephones are now operated by the companies to be brought under this management.

Percy M. Chandler, of Philadelphia, is a director and one of the chief promoters of the new telephone company. James Kerr, of Clearfield; John W. Garland, of Pittsburgh; Lyman D. Gilbert, of Harrisburg; Rembrandt Peale, of New York; S. P. Light, of Lebanon; H. Prentiss Taylor, of Pittsburgh; Ellis L. Orvis, of Bellefonte; A. W. Lee, of Clearfield; W. B. Trask, of Erie; J. L. Spangler, of Bellefonte; William Kaul, of St. Marys; Edward Bailey, G. W. Reiley, B. F. Myers, of Harrisburg, and J. Sloat Fassitt, of Elmira, are the other directors.

Lock Haven Democrat: The work of grading the railroad, which will extend through Sugar valley to Loganton, has been commenced at the latter place. Wednesday morning a crew of 50 men commenced work at Loganton and will work east until they meet the crew who are working toward that place. The distance to be graded is about three miles. The people of the valley are very anxious to see the road completed, as it will be a great advantage to them, and it now looks as though their wishes will be realized in the near future.

At the average boarding-house table the gossip is always much fresher than the butter and eggs.

We support our children so that they can raise their children for us to support.

The barber and his razor generally pull together.

THAT a dog's tail may be longer than the tongue of some women in Bellefonte but it can't wag as fast.

THAT unless a young man in Bellefonte has money to burn he had better not try to keep the pot boiling in a poker game.

THAT when Christy Smith, of Bellefonte, beheld that new baby boy his path of life looked "sonnier" than ever before.

THAT there are some men in Bellefonte who should remember that charity becomes bribery as soon as it is used as a bait.

THAT Bert Taylor, the Bellefonte coal dealer, says that the man in Bellefonte who buys a mule generally has a kick coming.

THAT if a widower in Bellefonte should marry a widow, they would be both unselfish; neither of them would think of No. 1.

THAT some girls in Bellefonte will never be content to keep off the street until they have acquired a husband and then something.

THAT there is a certain young man in the West Ward of Bellefonte who jumped at a conclusion the other evening and was surprised when he landed.

THAT "Billy" Garman, of Bellefonte, who takes a great deal of interest in shows of all kinds, says that even a menagerie man has no use for the wolf at the door.

THAT Harry Holtz, one of the practical young merchants in Bellefonte, says that if a girl's waist isn't to squeeze, he would like to know why she was made so thin in the middle.

THAT Horton Ray, of Bellefonte, the general proprietor of the Bockerhoff house, says that all the hotel accommodations are merely in-conveniences. That sounds as if there was a little philosophy about that statement.

THAT the other day at the Centre county fair a young lady, of Julian, was overheard making the remark that she had it in for a certain fellow in that neck of the woods, so that he had better employ a body guard or he might get it where the chicken got the axe.

THAT if the "woman in black," who is said as prowling around the streets of Bellefonte again late Friday night gets it in the neck or below the belt while spooking around, she can't blame anybody but herself. The fool or the blooming idiot who attempts to scare the people in that way deserves that kind of treatment, and she will get it.

THAT Bellefonte has in it a class of men who sit in the amen corner in our churches and consider it nothing more than a moral fire escape. There are several men in Bellefonte who had better give back some of the money they have taken from poor people or they will have to face the flames notwithstanding they imagine that they will be protected by the moral fire-escape.

THAT it is very little use for the ministers of Bellefonte to preach to a lot of smarties who know more than God him self. There is a bunch of these kind of fellows here who laugh and scoff at some of the teachings of the Bible, more for a business proposition than anything else. They imagine that it is a grand stand play to the masses. There is no way to prevent them from playing that sort of a game here, but in the wind up they will get just what is coming to them. To sum it all up, these gentlemen are living simply for the things of this life, and all it will amount to will be that they will have enough money to buy a coffin with gold handles and to have a funeral procession a mile long.

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Big Catch of Eels.

John Pennington, of Lewistown, has undertaken a corner in the eel market. During the summer he paid his license and placed one of the modern eel baskets in the Juniata river, 1,000 yards east of the Lewistown dam; 2,500 fresh water eels, weighing from one to five pounds each, were taken from this basket in one night. These have been placed in "live boxes" and will be kept until winter.

They are sold in the markets cleaned at 12 to 15 cents per pound. As they are much cheaper than meat they find a ready market.

It is estimated that more than three tons of eels, a wriggling, writhing, slimy mass, are now in the live boxes at the Pennington camp. The laws, it is said, have been fully observed, and the fish wardens are patrolling the river to see that no scale fish are taken in this manner. The heavy catch is due to the eels migrating east to deeper water for the winter months.

Game Commissioner C. K. Sober, of Lewistown, has begun to gather his first harvest of chestnuts from what is the largest cultivated chestnut grove in the United States, if not in the world. He has already contracted to sell one car load of 500 bushels to a Seattle firm at \$5.10 per bushel. Mr. Sober's grove covers about 300 acres, and is in Irish valley, about six miles from Shamokin. A few years ago it was merely waste mountain land, having been denuded of timber. Upon the native chestnut stock he grafted Paragon chestnut scions. This was the first real bearing season, but the locusts did much serious damage that he has only about one-sixth of a crop of 1,000 bushels.

A minister's wife, a doctor's wife and a traveling man's wife met one day recently and were talking about the forgetfulness of their husbands. The minister's wife thought her husband was the most forgetful man living, because he would go to church and forget his notes and no one could make out what he was trying to preach about. The doctor's wife thought her husband was the more forgetful still, for he would often start out to see a patient and forget his medicine case and make a nine mile trip for nothing. "Well," said the traveling man's wife, "my husband beats that. He came home the other day and patted me on the cheek and said: 'I believe I have seen you before—what is your name.'"

Uncle Sam in Cuba Again



CHARLES E. MAGOON.

IT has been a matter of surprise that the second American occupation of Cuba was accomplished with so much smoothness and dispatch. It was the middle of August when the Cuban insurrection broke out, and it was the middle of September before it became evident that the United States might need to take a hand to restore order in the island.

The movement of troops for the occupation of Cuba and since his arrival in the island has been first in command there by virtue of his rank. He is a hard worker and has seen service on all kinds of duty. Born in Kentucky in 1856, he attended the public schools and then went to West Point, from which he graduated in 1878 with an excellent record to his credit. For some years he saw service in the west, and he commanded a troop in the bloody fight at Wounded Knee. His record in the west was that of a fearless and venturesome Indian fighter.



TYPICAL CUBAN HOME.

less and venturesome Indian fighter. He was on the Pacific coast when war was declared against Spain and sailed for Manila as a major of volunteer engineers and participated in the attack on that city. It was at Manila that he performed a feat which for bravery and endurance was unsurpassed in the annals of the campaign—that of swimming at night around the Spanish earthworks fronting on the bay in search of information. Congress evinced its belief that General Bell is no "tin soldier" when it awarded him a medal of honor for gallantry in action.

General Bell assumed the duties of chief of staff last spring just in time to supervise the arrangements for giving aid through the army to the stricken people of San Francisco. Brigadier General Funston was active in that work, and singularly enough he and General Bell are again closely associated in the occupation of Cuba. Though General Bell has been ordered there so as to supervise to the best advantage the disposition of troops and is the ranking officer present, the immediate command of the troops devolves on General Funston.

When the transport Summer sailed from New York with 900 regulars for service in Cuba she had on board a young officer of engineers whose name is a household word not only in the United States, but all over the world. This officer was Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant 3d, son of Major General Frederick D. Grant, commander of the department of the east. Being a grandson of one of the greatest soldiers of the time, he inherits a love for the smell of gunpowder, and his chief fear has been that his country would see no more war during his lifetime. He was born in 1881, and one of the last acts of his distinguished grandfather was to write a letter addressed to "The President of the United States" asking for the present Lieutenant Grant's appointment to West Point. It was handed to President McKinley in 1899, and thus the appointment of the elder General Grant desired was made. The young man made a fine record at the academy, better than that of his grandfather, but, as an old officer put it, "he will have to work some to beat him as a soldier." Lieutenant Grant has seen service in the Philippines and has been military aid to the president.

It has been estimated that there are about \$150,000,000 worth of American investments in Cuba. The industries which have been built up through American enterprise and American money in the past half dozen years include tobacco, sugar and other plantations, mines, railroads, trolley, telegraph and telephone lines, etc. Secretary Taft in his address at Havana university paid a tribute to the wisdom of ex-President Palma in encouraging the investment in Cuba of foreign capital. The industrial prosperity that this has brought about has changed the condition of the Cuban masses in many respects. The huts and thatched cottages in which so many natives have lived are giving place to homes of more ambitious proportions and better accommodations. Secretary Taft's success in the establishment of American authority for a

second time without arousing hostility among the Cubans themselves will, it is believed, be continued in the administration of Judge Charles E. Magoon, whom President Roosevelt has designated as Secretary Taft's successor as governor during the temporary occupation of the island by the Americans. Judge Magoon has been a pronounced success as governor of the canal zone and minister to Panama, and he is a man whose abilities as a diplomat are reputed almost equal to those of the war secretary himself.



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