

The Centre Democrat.

Circulation 4,900.—Largest in Centre County.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1907.

Vol. 29, No. 12.

JACOB FROM IS HELD FOR TRIAL

Result of the Habeas Corpus Hearing Last Saturday.

IN THE DALE MURDER CASE

The Son Released on Bail—Witnesses Testify to Serious Threats, and an Admission of the Crime in Un-guarded Talk.

Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, every available seat in the court house was occupied while the aisles were packed, and standing room was at a premium. The occasion was the habeas corpus hearing of Jacob From and his son James, both of Centre Hall, who recently were arrested by Detective Millard, on the charge of shooting Josiah Dale, Monday evening, November 12th, as he was crossing Nittany mountain on his way to Centre Hall.

This case has attracted wide attention, owing to the cowardly nature of the

would get even with Dale before long," or words to that effect. Conversation was in October, two or three weeks before Dale's death.

MARY E. LYON-DECKER, resides in property across the alley from Jacob From at Centre Hall—knew the From's for over 16 years. At dusk, on November 12th, saw a man at From's gate, with something in his hand and he walked up the road; he walked like From, could not say what it was in his hand, a gun or stick. At 7 o'clock heard a shot, thought it was up along the mountain road near the Gravel Hole (about 1/2 mile distant). Next morning From told me that "Dale had been shot near Adam Nearhood's road and he feared that he would be taken for it on account of the lawsuit he had with Dale." One day before that, as Mr. Dale drove by, she saw Mr. From standing and shaking his fist at Dale and called him a "rotten son-of-a-bitch." Sometime after the murder of Dale, Jacob From was walking up and down the alley between their homes and she heard Mr. From talking to himself, a habit he had. At the time she distinctly heard From say to himself that "He had taken his gun and gone up in the mountain and shot the son of—." I believe From was implicated in the Dale murder. I do not visit the From home, we are not good friends; did not say I would swear this case on From.



A snap-shot of Jacob From and son James, taken at the hearing of the Court House, Saturday morning while on their way from the jail to the court house. From stands to the left, next is James From and Jacob From to the right.

crime and for the reason that a number of persons in that community have been under suspicion.

The hearing was before Hon. Ellis L. Orvis, with District Attorney Wm G. Runkle, Hon. John G. Love and N. B. Spangler representing the prosecution or the commonwealth; and J. C. Meyer Esq., and J. M. Reichline, Esq., defending the prisoners. The Froms were brought into court by Sheriff Kline and Deputy Reese at 10 a. m. The prisoners were rather uneasy and nervous, the father displaying the effect of his brief confinement and worry.

The court ordered immediate opening of the case. As the killing of Josiah Dale happened last November and the details have been repeatedly gone over in this paper, we deem it unnecessary to repeat all this well known data as adduced from the various witnesses on the stand. In this report an effort will be made to note the important facts and latest developments as told by the various witnesses on the stand:

THE TESTIMONY.
MRS. KATE DALE—widow of Josiah Dale, told of the return of the horse and buggy containing the lifeless body of her husband, Josiah Dale, at 8:30 p. m., Monday evening, November 12th.

DES. M. J. LOCKE, AND P. S. FISHER, the county coroner, who were at the post mortem, described the gunshot wound in the back 1 1/2 inches in diameter, was ragged, extended inward and downward penetrating the heart, causing instant death; found a number of shot; gun was fired at a slight angle to the body as if in an upright position.

MRS. MARGARET MOYER—wife of Andy Moyer, lived on the Dale farm at the time Mr. Dale was shot; moved there March 30, 1906, from the Florey home near Centre Hall. After Mr. Dale's death, the farm stock was sold and the family moved back recently to Centre Hall, as Mr. Moyer is a moulder by trade and secured employment there in the foundry. While living at the Florey home and a short time after having rented the Dale farm, Jacob From came to the house and wanted to persuade Mr. Dale to sell the cattle off the mountain farm and buy From's cattle in their place. When notified later that Mr. Dale refused to listen to the proposition From grew angry and in a threatening manner said he "would meet Dale on the road sometime and lay him low." At same time threatened to "lay Dale's barn low in ashes." This was said on their back porch, at Florey's; little daughter Ruth heard it. Afterwards they moved to the Dale farm. Saw Dale at farm the day he was shot. Left there at 7 p. m.—at least noticed that buggy was gone at that hour.

ANDREW MOYER—corroborated testimony of wife. From also said he would carry out threat inside of a month. A shotgun was at our house which the District Attorney now has. From's threat was made in March, on the day of Dan Keller's sale. We were under suspicion for this crime.

FRANK SHUTT, blacksmith—three weeks before Dale's death Jacob From was in my shop and I heard him say: "Time would come when Dale would suffer for what he had done." Did not say when, whether now or in the hereafter. Bob Smith also heard From's statement.

ROBT. SMITH—heard From say "He

Mother heard From talk in the alley.

MARGARET GEISEWITZ, Mrs. Decker's mother and is a feeble old lady who had to be assisted to the stand—am 81 years old, eyesight poor, memory is good. I distinguish people I know more by hearing than by sight. She heard From make the above statement; she positively recognized his voice, because she knew it well. Detective did not tell her to say this; heard the shot at 7 p. m. From's expression worried her, and told no one except her daughter.

JOHN ROWE—was at From's house after Dale murder and heard From say of Dale he "was glad the old son-of-a-bitch was dead." From started the conversation.

JOHN ZELLER—while butchering at John Kennedy's, we had no gun to kill the hogs when From remarked that had he known this he "would have brought the shooting iron along with which he shot Dale." I thought he said it as a joke.

JOHN D. MOORE—corroborated Zeller's testimony.

JOHN TRAFFORD—had conversation in jail with prisoner.

A. L. MILLARD, MORRIS LENCOWENTZ, W. B. SHUTT: by their testimony proved that James From, at the time of the Dale murder, owned a single-barreled 12-gauge, and a double-barreled 10-gauge shot guns. The 10-gauge gun would shoot a 12-gauge shell. One day as detective Lencowentz and James went hunting, the father called after James and said: "Watch yourself what you are doing."

J. C. MEYER made a strong plea in behalf of his clients to which John G. Love briefly replied, pointing out the serious threats and motive shown.

The court announced that Jacob From would be held for trial. Later in the afternoon James From was released on bail, and returned home.

During the taking of the testimony the elder From was very nervous and excitable, at times expressing much surprise at the character of the testimony, especially that of Mr. and Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Decker.

Detective Millard states that their entire case against From was not presented. It is assured that the trial will take place in next sessions of court, which convenes the latter part of May.

The ruling of the court caused Jacob From much distress and to everybody he protested his innocence, and denounced some of the testimony, implicating him with the deed, as false and vicious. He is a restless man and an incessant talker under ordinary circumstances.

It is not in our line to comment on the character of the evidence produced at the hearing. It also must be remembered that the defendant was given no opportunity to go on the stand, or produce any evidence in his behalf. For this reason the law assumes him to be an innocent man until a jury of his peers, after hearing all the evidence, render their opinion.

On Wednesday the court granted a "short" rule to take the testimony of Mrs. Jacob From, at Centre Hall. As she is seriously ill it was deemed important to have her statement as she is an important witness, especially to determine the whereabouts of her husband on the evening that Mr. Dale was shot. The testimony will be taken on Friday.

WHY WILL CHAMBERS KEPT HIS JOB

Political Information Dealt Out in Red Hot Chunks.

WHY HE LEFT SNYDER COUNTY

A Discredited Publisher—In Disfavor in Centre County—"Lying Like a Horse Thief"—Why the Public Resents an Appointment.

The article that appeared in the last issue of THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT relative to the Bellefonte postoffice aroused considerable comment, and, as we expected, Harter, the "Snyder County Emigrant," who was appointed postmaster over one of Centre county's old soldiers, denied everything—and the "cock crew" about four times. Then, when caught, fell back to his usual argument of yelling "liar!"

We repeat, that the new postmaster did try to remove Wm. Chambers and substitute Ambrose Sletoman in Chambers' place. He failed, and why he failed many people do not understand. For that reason we will explain a few points not generally known by the public, and on which Harter blundered, and then lied to cover up his duplicity.

Wm. Chambers entered the postoffice some years ago, accepting the lowest position, that of Stamp Clerk; but, on account of his efficiency, was soon promoted to the foremost, "Money Order Clerk," which he held under Mr. Montgomery, and which is under the Civil Service regulations. He cannot be removed to gratify the spite of a whipper snapper like Harter, who was run out of Middleburg and then emigrated to Bellefonte. The new postmaster, for some years, bore a personal hatred towards Mr. Chambers, and this deprecation was one of the things he long dreamed over, and openly promised for years back, if he got the office.

When Harter received his commission, a blank bond came for the postoffice employee to fill out who would act as assistant to the postmaster. Ambrose Sletoman was notified and solicited by Harter to accept it; Ambrose then was working for the United Telephone Co. as assistant to Supt. Robb, and, the story goes, had the offer of a splendid promotion, which Harter induced Ambrose to refuse and become his supposed assistant postmaster. Ambrose went about consulting leading republican politicians informing them of his appointment and arranged for his bond.

Someone notified Harter that Chambers could not be removed from the postoffice; by the postal authorities next came the sad information that if Harter wanted to appoint Ambrose Sletoman he would have to pay Sletoman's salary out of his own pocket!!! which almost broke the "Emigrant's heart." Advices from Washington confirmed that position, and he got another jolt.

This Sletoman unfortunately refused a telephone promotion and then lost the postoffice job—it was a tragedy of errors.

The reason Chambers could not be removed is simple—he is under Civil Service regulations and good cause must be shown for removal. There is no such a distinct position as an assistant postmaster in the Bellefonte office. In his eagerness to vent his spite on Chambers the new postmaster failed to note in his instructions that the enclosed bond was to be filled out by the person he DESIGNATED in the office, who should act as assistant postmaster only in his absence.

Not realizing the difference of DESIGNATE and appoint, he assumed as usual, plunged ahead and then fell down, exposing his violated pledges to Wm. Chambers' friends. Then, like a craw fish, Harter went back to the political friends of Will Chambers—to whom six months prior, in a law office in Bellefonte, he pledged his word and honor not to disturb if appointed, and with whom he had just violated his sacred pledge—and tried to smear over his crooked course, and then by force of circumstances designated Will Chambers as the assistant postmaster.

This whole transaction is of little importance, yet it is unfortunate to see a public official besmirch his official duties, at the outset, by an exhibition of duplicity and violation of pledges made upon honor among men.

Last week Harter, in his haste, attempted the following explanation in his paper. It is amazing and we believe it is the most unfortunate thing the Emigrant ever penned, for people in Bellefonte know it, is not true. Here it is:

"Since there is an evident attempt on the part of one of our discredited exchanges to make it appear that the new postmaster had betrayed the confidence of his friends in his appointment of an assistant postmaster, we want to say that no pledges were made to anybody—neither of the two applicants to whom the paper referred having asked for the position prior to Mr. Harter's appointment. In fact both were opposed to Mr. Harter's appointment—the

one, Mr. Chambers, being an applicant for postmaster himself; while Mr. Sletoman had endorsed another candidate. Mr. Chamber's appointment was not made because the postoffice department demanded it, but because of the entire satisfaction he has given and is able to give to the public whose interests it is Mr. Harter's first duty to serve. This explanation is made for the purpose of convincing the public that the editor of the above referred to exchange has not yet experienced a change of heart but is still lying like a horse-thief."

Now, no one ever accused Harter of pledging anything to either Will Chambers or Ambrose Sletoman—his explanation is useless—an evasion of the important charge. If anyone is in doubt as to who has lied like a horse-thief, we refer them to the following: All the employees in the Bellefonte postoffice, Hon. John G. Love, Capt. H. C. Quigley, Col. Ed. R. Chambers, Harry Keller, Esq., chairman of Republican county committee, Thos. J. Mitchell, Esq., secretary of the Rep. Co. Com., Clement Dale, Ambrose Sletoman, Nelson Robb, each of whom have some knowledge of this transaction; and it even was the talk of the town a week before it was published by us. In conclusion note:

This is the man who, in a judicial campaign in Snyder county, was branded as a traitor to his party, driven outside the party councils, ignored, for not loyally supporting its nominee, Harold McClure, (now the President Judge of that district) the Republican nominee who defeated Judge Bucher, democrat, Harter's man. Discredited and despised he therefore emigrated to Bellefonte.

This is the man who tried to give Gov. Hastings his "double-shuffle," but Hastings knew better and on the side ridiculed the duplicity.

This is the same man who in a Republican County Convention was unmasked by William E. Gray, now dead, and an audience of a thousand approved and applauded the exposure.

This is the man who tried to deceive Clem Dale when a candidate for congress against Dr. Locke; and then became a bitter enemy of Locke whom he charged with swiping all of the Dresser bootie.

This is the man who opposed Henry C. Quigley for State Senate last fall.

This is the man who also deceived Col. Edward R. Chambers.

This is the man who edits a "discredited" sheet—The Keystone Gazette—which every prominent republican attorney at the Centre Co. Bar, excepting one, openly repudiates; and is the reason why they and prominent party workers are now, and have been, negotiating for the purchase of the Bellefonte Republican, or the starting of a new paper, so that the party may have a paper that will vigorously and unselfishly represent party interests.

This is the man who is credited with securing signatures on his petition, last summer, by the misrepresentation; that he was the only applicant for postmaster in the town.

Is it not perfectly natural that a man like this who will violate pledges made upon word and honor, will easily lie on top, if that then might save his humiliated and exposure? Thus the character of the "Emigrant" (his true postmaster), is again revealed in its now postmaster.

These are only some of the reasons why nine-tenths of our people resent his appointment?

POLICEMAN KILLED.

Patrolman John P. Moloney of the Williamsport police force was shot and almost instantly killed about 7:30 o'clock Wednesday night of last week by one of supposed tramps. The murder occurred along the Reading railroad tracks several hundred yards east of Mosser's tannery.

Maloney had been detailed on plain clothes duty in the West End owing to numerous cases of petty thievery that have been reported in that section for a time past. Wednesday night he went to Mosser's tannery and asked Watchman William M. Hitchings to accompany him down in the direction of the pumping station where a number of tramps were said to be camping, and foraging on the neighborhood, in several instances robbing beerstands and committing other depredations.

Hitchings and Maloney walked down the tracks to the pumping station, found the vacated camp and made an inspection. At that time no one was in sight. Returning they discovered two men sitting on a pile of ties. Maloney started towards them when one of the men got up and made off. The officer gave pursuit and in a few moments a struggle ensued. Three shots rang out in quick succession, with a cry for assistance, and then Hitchings drew his revolver and fired two shots into the ground, at the same time running up to a prostrate form lying along the tracks.

Stepping down he saw to his horror that it was Maloney, who was then in death agony. The two men disappeared so quickly that the watchman could not intercept them.

Thursday afternoon, about 3:45 o'clock George Nelson was captured along the Reading railroad and identified as the assassin of Maloney, and is now behind the prison bars.

Beech Creek Bridge Damaged.

The county commissioners have been notified that the inter-county covered bridge spanning Bald Eagle creek about a mile below Beech Creek borough, was damaged during the ice flood, so that it is unsafe for travel. The pier is badly shattered. The bridge is closed to travel until repairs can be made. This is a very old bridge, being constructed before Clinton county was organized in 1839.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AT HARRISBURG

The Corporations are Fighting Proposed Reform Bills.

NEW SCALP BILL WAS PASSED

Placing a Bounty on Certain Animals—The Capitol Investigation—Amazing Frauds Exposed—Railroads are Fighting Bills

Special Correspondence.

There will be a rush out of the State or into the penitentiary as the final result of the capitol graft investigation. It has already been shown that glass made in Beaver county has been substituted for glass imported from France as required by the specifications and the substitution necessarily involved fraud. Other bidders for the work estimated on the price of domestic glass. The difference, something like four-fold, is the advantage which the favored bidder had over his competitors.

These facts were obtained by the examination of sub-contractors who supplied Sanderson with materials. Other sub-contractors will be examined later on and other frauds will be revealed. It will be shown that a considerable part of the walnut furniture is veneered with glass and that ornaments which should have been solid marble or metal are putty and paste. By these processes the State treasury has been looted to the extent of at least \$5,000,000. Probably the money can't be recovered but criminal proceedings will run against the perpetrators of the crimes and justice can be thus vindicated.

INTENTION OF THE CONSPIRATORS.

If J. Lee Plummer had been elected State Treasurer in 1906 the people of Pennsylvania never would have known of these frauds. It was the intention of the conspirators to fasten upon the public mind the impression that the capitol building had been completed within the appropriation of \$1,000,000, and the literature for that purpose had already been prepared for distribution, when Treasurer Berry made the exposures. Former Governor Penneyacker was the principal promoter of the contemplated fraud. He must have known that it was false and yet he encouraged it in various ways.

In view of these facts it is hardly necessary to point out the obvious advantage of a Democrat in the office of State Treasurer. Mr. Berry's successor will be chosen at the election of next fall. The machine will exhaust every resource to recover that point of advantage. It is not only a prolific source of graft, if misused for that purpose, but it is a fountain of secret information. With a quiescent man in that office, even though he be personally above reproach and beyond suspicion, the State funds can be farmed and the accounts of all the Departments can be manipulated.

ANOTHER LITTLE GRAB.

Another little grab into the State Treasury has just been revealed. Four years ago and again two years ago the publisher of the Legislative Record received \$2.88 a page for preparing, printing and publishing that usually tardy bulletin of the proceedings of the Legislature. The work is let by the Speaker of the House and the President pro tem. of the Senate to the lowest bidder. This year there was only one bidder and his price was \$12 a page. The letting occurred while Henry F. Walton was Speaker and notwithstanding the obvious fraud the contract was awarded at the exorbitant price.

This has called to mind another suspicious incident. When the contract for the State printing was awarded last year several bidders the lowest of which was Clarence M. Busch, of Philadelphia, who got the award. The law requires that a bond for the fulfillment of the contract accompany the bid, which is forfeited in the event of failure to make good. Nevertheless Mr. Busch declined to accept the contract. It was then offered to the next lowest bidder who declined. The third lowest adopted the same course and the high bidder who happens to be the publisher of the Legislative Record got the award.

Here is what followed: The lowest bidder withdrew his bond and made no forfeit. The next lowest bidder became Superintendent of the plant for the contractor, the third lowest bidder is said to be in the enjoyment of a rake-off and the result of the conspiracy is that the treasury is being looted constantly by exorbitant prices for the State printing. It has been thought that that operation suggested the plan for getting an extortionate price for publishing the Legislative Record, but instead of taking the chances of losing the forfeit, the competing bidders were bought off.

THE STATE CONSTABULARY.

There will be another effort made within a few days to put a bill to abolish the State Constabulary on the calendar and the result will be watched with a good deal of interest. The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor held a convention in Harrisburg last week and not only expressed its interest in such legislation by resolution but did other things. One seldom sees a finer looking body of men than that convention. The delegates had corn on their hands, probably, but they were dressed like bankers and some of them spoke with the fluency and correctness of preachers or lawyers.

On Thursday morning they visited the Legislature in a body, the badges of their organization being conspicuously displayed. They didn't create any excitement during their visit except such as is inevitable, but their presence in such force made people "sit up and take notice." They stood in the lobby and in the space on the floor between the gallery and the bar and talked quietly but earnestly to Representatives in the Legislature. The Senate was not in session at the time, more's the pity, but the in-

Continued on page 4.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

GIRLS I HAVE KNOWN.

The liveliest girl I ever met
Was Charlie's little sister;
Exceeding sweet was Gerry Mel;
Helpful, Amelia Ration.

Nicer than Jenny Rosley
It would be hard to find;
Lovely was Rhoda Dendron, too;
One of the flower kind.

Did not fancy Polly Gon;
Too angular was she.
And I could never take at all
To Annie Mossity.

rather liked Miss Sarah Nade;
Her voice was full of charm;
Hester Neal too nervous was;
She filled me with alarm.

E. Lucy Dale was clear of face;
Her smile was like a shell.
Miss Ella Gant was rather nice,
Though she was awful swell.

A clinging girl was Jessie Mine;
I asked her me to marry;
In vain—now life is full of fights,
For I'm joined to Millie Tary.

J. H. W. in Boston Transcript.

We may name a hundred drawbacks
That a man must meet in life
We may say it's all a battle
And a never-ending strife;
Then resolve to meet it bravely—
Stand the test—to do and dare—
But scores of true victory
Lies in one word, be "square."

Many a man dines at expensive places
merely to feed his vanity.

Patriotism is often one-third love of country and two-thirds rum.

The minute a man begins to feel that he is very popular he becomes a bore.

It is safer to say that all men are liars than to try to prove an individual case.

A reformer is apt to regard a man as being crooked if he votes the straight ticket.

It sometimes happens a man marries in haste and spends his wife's money at leisure.

Some fellows have a lot of good in them, but the trouble is they seem to keep it there.

One woman judges another woman's husband by the price of the dresses he buys for her.

A western paper says that you can tell a successful farmer by looking at his horse; you can tell a slovenly woman by looking at her hair; you can tell the dry goods box statesman by looking at the patches on the bosom of his pantaloon; you can tell the poisonous serpent by the bluntness of his tail; but the easiest thing of all, you can tell the enterprising merchant by a glance at the local papers. This is not divine revelation, but it is business and gospel truth.

COUNCIL MEETING.

Monday evening there was considerable business transacted at the meeting of the Bellefonte council; Kirk and Derrine had a little war paint on over the cleaning of the gutters, but they didn't put their tommy hawks into each other very far so no blood was spilled. They were able to go home without crutches. Reverend J. Allison Platts, E. R. Richardson and A. Schmidt represented the Bellefonte Ministerium, and there was a committee of ladies of the W. C. T. U. Addresses were made by Reverends Platts, Richardson and Schmidt. The need of a curfew for Bellefonte was urged in an eloquent manner. After a thorough discussion solicitor Mitchell was authorized to draw up a Curfew Ordinance and submit it to council. It is very probable that the ordinance will be passed, and its the right thing to do. S. D. Gettig, of Gettig, Bower & Zerby, were present to urge a settlement of the claim of Geo. Beezer against the boro for damages to his livery stable by the raising of Water street. Charles T. Noll asked for a crossing over Water street opposite his laundry. The report of Fire Marshall John J. Bower for the year 1906 was offered and approved. The bonds of Thomas Howley, overseer of the poor, and William B. Rankin, Treasurer, were offered and approved. The fire and police committee recommended the appointment of William Beezer as chief-of-police at no increase of salary. It was ordered.

Wild Cat Killed.

The rumor is that George Uzzle, of Snow Shoe, while out in the mountains with his dogs, the other day, came across a wild cat. The dogs tracked the animal and the result is that one of the dogs is in dog heaven, as it was torn to pieces. George was now up against the real thing, and fought like a tiger to save himself from the terrible fate of his dog. He managed finally to crush the life out of the cat by the use of a large club. It measured 3 feet and 10 inches in length, and is said to be the largest ever killed in that vicinity. He will have the cat mounted by an expert taxidermist and placed on exhibition at the next great Centre County Fair.

Good Men Come High.

The Methodists at the holding of their Central Pennsylvania conference at Tyrone, beginning March 26, will not hear William Jennings Bryan, as had been hoped. Believing that Mr. Bryan would be a big drawing card, the committee of arrangements of the conference wrote him for his terms to deliver the principal lecture at the annual session. His price was so high it took the clergymen a breath away. His fee was larger than a whole year's salary of some of the ministers. The committee concluded to get a cheaper man.

The Brixton Burglary.

Much excitement has lately arisen at State College over the coming production of the "Brixton Burglary" by the Theatians, the dramatic club, of the above named institution. One nighty amusing feature in the shows that this organization present is the absurdly comical manner in which the female characters are portrayed. The "Brixton Burglary" will be played in Bellefonte on Friday night, so be sure to avail yourself of the opportunity of seeing it. Prices 25, 35 and 50 cents.