

# The Centre Democrat

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## ABOUT PAPER AND EARLY EXPERIENCES

### DISPLAY THAT ATTRACTS MUCH ATTENTION

## AT CENTRE DEMOCRAT OFFICE

The Front of Our Office Obscured—A Few Eloquent Facts—Amount of Paper Used by Us—Growth of a Business.

On Monday Jacob Barlet, the drayman, began unloading a car load of newspaper from the Pa. R. station and stacked the greater portion of it on the pavement in front of this office. The pile was ten to fifteen feet high and about thirty feet in length. There was enough there to amaze the average citizen as he passed by, and many were curious enough to stop and inquire what it all meant, for none had ever seen such a display of paper in Bellefonte.

Below we give an illustration of the shipment which almost obscures the front of the office and part of Olevi's

Devil." It is Geo. Derr, our apprentice, and all apprentices in print shops are appropriately named "Devils." While he is a typical "little devil," yet he is a good one. Aside of him he holds a card with the inscription "No circulation liar needed at The Centre Democrat office"—because this stack of paper tells the tale and no "windy" storm can blow it away.

**A Compliment to Senator W. C. Heinle**  
In conversation with a leading member of the Bellefonte schoolboard, the remark was made, Heinle should remain on the school board—we like him, on the board for the same reason that Judge Orady said they liked Judge Beaver on the Superior Court bench—he said the fairness of a question strikes Beaver's mind first—and from this standpoint he arrives at a conclusion with an unselfishness that is admirable.

The above is taken from the Bellefonte Daily of the 12th inst, and is entirely true. Mr. Heinle has certainly earned for himself the reputation of being a real representative of the people in every position he has occupied. He brought this the 34th Senatorial District forward until it was known all over the State, and through him its influence was largely felt in Legislation.

## BORO. PRIMARIES.

On Saturday evening, under the new law, the last Spring primaries were held. Hereafter all offices, both borough and county, will be filled at the November election. Owing to the inclement weather many of the primaries through the county were attended only by a few voters, thus the vote in most precincts was comparatively small. However, in Bellefonte there was something doing. In the North ward Charles F. Cook was after the scalp of Henry C. Quigley for school director. The fight was fought to the finish. When the poles closed both Cook and Quigley were confident that they had won but when the votes were counted Quigley found that he was just two votes shy. Though a great political warrior, it was enough to make the defeated candidate feel like kicking himself all over the ward because he just knew when he could have gotten four more votes if he had just known it. Charles Cook is entitled to be crowing like a banty rooster, because a majority of two was just as good as a thousand.

The next contest was between John Keichline and James Corl for Justice of the peace in the South and West wards. Mr. Keichline wanted to hold onto the plum, while Mr. Corl desired

## STORY OF A STORE AND TWO MERCHANTS

### WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS YEARS AGO

## BOTH CAME FROM BAVARIA

Located at Howard—Carried Packs and Prospered Later—Abraham Sussman and Balsler Weber—Remembered by Many Readers.

Between sixty-eight and seventy years ago a young man of Hebrew descent, born in the town of Aschbach, Bavaria, left his home, came to America, and sometime in 1843, or earlier, found himself in Howard township with a pack of well chosen goods on his back, which he dealt out at a handsome profit to people who were distant from stores. Soon he had a horse and wagon, and shortly after started a store in a small log house, still standing on the bank of the canal at the farm house of Henry Pletcher, close to what is now the eastern line of the township. His name was Abraham Sussman, and he afterward became well known in the business affairs of the county. The main road between Lock Haven and Bellefonte, then as now, ran along the hillside some rods north of Henry Pletcher's and upon it stood the farm buildings of Michael Pletcher. It is related of Sussman that in the spring of the year, when the raftsmen, after having delivered their lumber rafts at Lock Haven, Williamsport or Marietta, with their pockets bulging with the proceeds thereof, were finding the way home on foot, along this road, would carry his goods up to the Michael Pletcher barn, open wide the doors, improvise a "counter" with a board or two on the heads of a couple of barrels, and reap his annual harvest of shekels from the watermen who would pack the purchased goods home on their backs. After a time the store was transferred to another small log house, still standing on the lower side of the road at the farm house, at that time, of Emanuel Schenck, now owned by his sons and occupied by Joseph Herr, whose wife is a daughter of Emanuel's, and Sussman moved back to the first log house along the canal. Sometime in the early fifties, the exact date not now ascertainable, Mr. Sussman moved the store to the house in Howard which it yet occupies, purchasing it of David Brickly, who had built it as a combined dwelling and shoe shop, the brother of Samuel Brickly, another shoe man, who died here not many years ago. In 1855 or '56 he sold store, building and all to Robert J. Haynes and moved to Bellefonte.

Now let us go back to Aschbach, Bavaria, 1843. There we find Balsler Weber, a youth of twenty years and a tanner by trade, as his father had been before him, who had known Sussman in a friendly way before he left for America, and between whom and himself there had been some correspondence. As a result Balsler sailed for the bright shores, landed in New York, after nearly a month's sea journey, with \$25 in his pocket, looked about the city for a few days, went to Schenectady where he worked for a few weeks in a broom factory and in a tannery, and in November of the same year started overland for Howard to meet his friend Sussman. Here Mr. Weber worked for a time at whatever he found to do. Made friends of the Pletcher family as Sussman had done, traveled for Sussman for two years with pack on his back, then for four years more with a horse and wagon, which brought him down to 1857, with a knowledge of dry goods and valuable experience in selling them.

In the meantime, namely Sept. 30, 1852, he had been united in marriage to Miss Anna Pletcher, and was then keeping house in the old log house on the Rudolph Pletcher farm, just below the crossing of Lick Run and the main road leading to Lock Haven. One hot morning in July, he started with his shoulder, to pass through town to the farm, which Rudolph Pletcher owned just west of town to mow. As he passed the store he halted for a moment for a word with Haynes, who said to him "Balsler, let me sell you this store." After a few moments chat he walked into the place, pulled out a few of the drawers, glanced along the well-

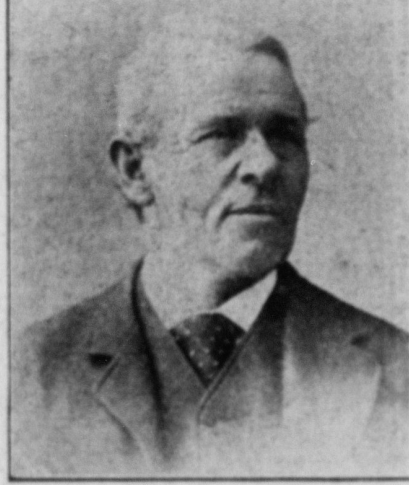
filled shelves, and said, "How much will you take for it, building included?" Haynes named his price and without a moment's hesitation Weber replied, "I'll take it; when will you give possession?" "Right away, its all yours, except the contents of the safe," Mr. Haynes directed his clerk, John W. Gardner, who was also his brother-in-law, to lock the safe and bring him the key; Gardner walked over to the cash drawer and began taking out the cash received for the morning's sales, when Haynes said to him, "Never mind that, it goes with the safe—everything but the safe, and with that they both

launched out in business, with a well-stocked store, and a fine experimental knowledge of men and merchandise; and there he and his successors have remained in always successful business until this day. He moved his little family up into the rooms over the store, and drove the business with all the strength of his sturdy young manhood. Prosperity came to him in a steady, though not rapid, stream from the first, and it was not very long until he found himself able to buy the comfortable house just across the street, also from Mr. Sussman, and devoted the whole of the store building to store purposes, using the upper rooms for reserve or surplus stock, for in those days stock was bought in large quantities, at spring and fall visits to the wholesale dealers in the large cities, and not from week to week of itinerant peddlers as it is now. Mr. Haynes moved to Snow Shoe and there enjoyed the quiet life of a country gentleman, dispensing a genial hospitality to many friends, and for a time, as mine host of the Snow Shoe hotel, to the public, becoming one of the best known and most popular citizens of town has ever had. By 1873 Mr. Weber's business had increased to such an extent that more room was an absolute necessity, and a large extension was added to the rear of the store, containing a gallery and under floor, and giving practically four available rooms all opening into each other, and constituting a department store on a small scale.

In his early store days Mr. Weber brought George H. Wistar, a Girard College boy, from Philadelphia, who became an efficient clerk and all-round helper. In 1874 he took his oldest son, Abram, and Wistar into partnership with him under the name of B. Weber & Co. Ten years later Wistar retired and the firm name became B. Weber & Son. Wistar had become a fine penman and an unusually expert accountant and took an examination for the civil service. His record was so good that when a vacancy for Pennsylvania was found Wistar stood first of the four men who had qualified for the vacant position and the place was tendered to the Hon. A. G. Curtin, then representing this district, for him, and the governor at once appointed him. He remained in the service, with several promotions, until his health failed him, and he came home to rest, and died a year or two ago.

In 1889 Mr. Weber turned the whole business over to his three sons, Abraham, John and William, constituting the firm B. Weber's Sons, and withdrew to the well earned rest and retirement of private life, dying Oct. 23, 1898. The business continues under the name of B. Weber's Sons, without change since their successional in 1889, at the old place, with the aroma of more than three score years of successful merchandizing hanging about it, though the present owners have added a considerable stock of business enterprise which was probably quite as profitable.

During all his business career the name of Balsler Weber was a synonym for business ability and integrity. He had strong business instincts which were thoroughly developed in the school of necessity, and excellent



BALSLE WEBER.

Judgment largely multiplied by experience of which his keen powers of observation always made the most. He was a close dealer and good, though kind, considerate, even lenient, collector. His business methods were of the best, and are well illustrated by the fact that he always discounted his own bills, and early established the habit of paying every Monday the bills which had been received during the past week, taking for himself the last fraction of discount to which this extra promptness justly entitled him. In religion he was a Catholic and liberally supported, both in service and in his purse, the church of his choice and his youth. In politics he was a consistent democrat, of liberal and broad-minded views, and after using his influence to secure good nominations, supported the candidates of his party with the might which he put into whatever his hand found to do. He never would consent to hold political office, though often requested to do so, but served willingly and always usefully in the non-political offices of his town.

**Two Deaths in Sugarvalley.**  
Mrs. Mary Swartz, residing near Carroll, dropped from the chair on which she was seated at 1 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and when picked up she was dead. She was aged 72 years.  
Mrs. Lydia Zellers died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Forest Wirth, at Greenbury, on Wednesday forenoon, of the infirmities of age, she having reached her 84th year.

Are you boycotting the butcher? Many a family has done that for months because they lacked the cash to buy even a soupbone, let alone a steak or a roast.  
John Gummo has sold his timberland in Beech Creek township to Bowyer and Leathers, of Howard, for a private consideration.

Edison again announces the completion of his wonderful storage battery.

## THE DOLLAR BUYS MORE IN ENGLAND

### THEY HAVE ADVANTAGES OVER AMERICANS IN PURCHASING.

## HOW PRICES HAVE GONE UP

### Wages of Salaried Man Practically Cut Sixty Per Cent. in Decade—The Workingman Also Suffers—Growing Worse Every Year.

Do you know that if you earned \$100 a month ten years ago and now earn \$100 that your wages have practically reduced 60%?  
Do you know that if you go into the market to buy 100 articles which two years ago would have cost you \$8.12 that you have to pay \$11.62 for them?  
If you are a workman and have gained increase in wages amounting to 20 per cent. within this period, the cost of living for you and your family has increased 60 per cent. and you have lost twice as much as you have gained.

Are you aware that the workmen of England, Germany and France get better wages than yours, although they are paid in figures actually less? The equivalent of \$1.09 in Europe buys more than the American workman can get for \$1.00.

These are a few of the assertions made by J. R. Cahill and J. P. Street, British labor experts, who have been in this country for months to investigate our increased cost of living. They constitute the problems that congress now in session, must inquire into if the members really want to learn what it costs to live in a tariff-burdened country.

## One-third for Bread.

"I can't understand why we buy bread in England for one-third the price you pay in Chicago, when you send us the wheat," said Commissioner Street. "You have to pay five cents for 14 ounces of bread, while we get a loaf weighing 64 ounces for ten cents."  
"We find in this country the idea that British workmen are not so well paid or housed. The contrary is the fact. British toilers get better wages better food and superior housing accommodations."

"The hotels in which many workers of this country live would not be tolerated by the authorities in England."

"Meat in this country costs the consumer from 16 to 24 cents a pound. In London the same meat, sold by the English branches of your packing houses, can be had 12 to 16 cents. Range cattle from Argentina furnish good meat for workmen in our markets at 11 to 11 cents a pound and sometimes as low as 6 cents."

"After shipping mutton from Australia, eggs and butter from Holland, and other food stuffs from distant countries, our dealers sell them to the British public for 40 per cent. less than American consumers pay. Our people never would submit to your tariff robbery. Your tariff put a tax of \$12 a carcass on beef, 67 cents a ton on bituminous coal, 25 cents a bushel on wheat and prohibitive prices on the entry of other commodities."

## It Will Be Free.

This evening at 8:15 Hon. Andrew J. Barchfield, of Pittsburg, one of the most representative men in Congress, will deliver a free lecture in Petrkin Hall. His subject will be "The Nation's Progress." Dr. Barchfield has represented the nation in many significant missions to Europe, the Philippines, Hawaii, Porto Rico, Cuba and the Panama Canal. He has given very popular addresses in Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg and other leading cities of the country; and it is an honor, indeed, to Bellefonte that he has consented with his many engagements to visit us and give us his impressions of a nation's progress as gathered from a long experience in public life and many visits to interesting sections of our own country and possessions and the leading places of interest abroad. Dr. Barchfield is anxious to visit Bellefonte because it is here his step son, Gilbert Meyers, has been attending the Academy for nearly five years.

At the conclusion of the lecture, he will honor the annual foot ball banquet with his presence, tendered at the Brockhoff House by Prof. James R. Hughes to his gridiron warriors. The trustees of the Academy and other prominent citizens will join with Mr. Hughes in paying fitting honors to the guest of the evening.

## Change at Garman House.

On Tuesday morning negotiations were closed whereby John McClellan Davis, of Tyrone, purchased from Robert Sheehy the furnishings of the Garman House in Bellefonte. The new proprietor will take charge just as soon as the license can be transferred which will be about Monday, February 7th. Mr. Davis is a hotel man by large experience and comes to Bellefonte highly recommended. At one time he was proprietor of the Ward House, at Tyrone, and of the Gamble House, at Jersey Shore. He is a pleasing affable gentleman who is bound to give general satisfaction to the patrons of this popular hostelry. The citizens in general, bid him and his family welcome.

The departure of Mr. Sheehy and wife is greatly regretted. Mr. Sheehy understands the hotel business and since coming here has greatly increased the patronage of the house. It was not that Mr. Sheehy did not like the place or was not doing sufficient business, but the change was made on account of the ill health of Mrs. Sheehy who has been on the sick list for a couple of years. Mr. and Mrs. Sheehy will leave for Atlantic City where they will remain for the next three months. After that they will go to Clearfield where they will occupy their home.

George Heverly, a well known resident of Eagleville, died very suddenly early Tuesday morning at the boarding house at the clay mines at Seebotac, where he was employed as fireman on the engine of the clay train. Heart failure is thought to have been the cause of his death.



wine's store In it there are 240 bundles, each weighing 160 pounds enough to fill a train car, or to print a total of 240,000 complete copies of the paper.

Remember that we print each week 5,600 copies, a little flaring will show that this supply will last only nine months.

As to the cost of paper, that may interest some. Years ago, when paper was made principally from rags, it cost the printer from 7 to 10 cents per pound. The invention of the wood pulp process provided a larger supply of raw material, and in consequence the price dropped a few years ago to as low as 3 1/2 cents per pound. Then the paper mills were bought up by a trust, many expensive mills were dismantled and destroyed, and instead of paper becoming cheaper, as with all trust goods it went up by jumps from that date. The tariff on paper keeps the Canadian product from competing. In consequence, the publishers must pay a costly tribute or tax to the capitalists who own the mills—or stop printing. As an instance, with paper now selling at 6242 per pound, instead of 3 1/2, this shipment cost us \$180.00 more than before the trust was formed. It comes out of the publisher's pocket and goes to someone who is not honestly entitled to it—it is legalized robbery—nothing else and is made possible by the tariff. "That's getting into politics," exclaims our sensitive good republicans may exclaim. There was no thought of politics at the outset, and we are trying to deal with cold facts only. Business men in other lines are meeting with the same experience, and these cold facts cannot be ignored. So much for that.

At this time, the sight of this huge stack of 12 tons of paper, naturally puts the publisher in a reminiscent mood. About 21 years ago, when the writer succeeded Frank Bible as publisher of the Centre Democrat, the office was on the second floor of an old abandoned rathole, known as the Conrad House, where the handsome Temple Court now stands.

Well it is remembered that the edition at that time came by express from a "patent inside" ready print concern, total weight of the weekly edition then was 85 pounds, and worst of all, credit so poor, that it came with a large offensive "C O D" marked on the outside—and justly so for The Centre Democrat's credit was very limited, and the new publisher's finances more so. Still worse—did you ever look in an old coffee pot—the flavor, strength and life all boiled out and only a sediment left—that was the character of the subscription list. It was made up of exchanges, complimentary names, dead heads, dead beats and God bless them a few good, honest, loyal patrons who occasionally dropped a dollar in the till more through charity than anything else. Those were gloomy days—but there was confidence in an opportunity and youthful energy sufficient to keep a paper afloat. In cold figures, it grew from a sediment of 65 pounds per week, to a healthy issue of 560 pounds, or eight times as much. Now we are not bragging; there is no hot air about it—simply cold facts that glow with eloquence as you comprehend their meaning. It is a tribute of appreciation from patrons far and wide that is inspiring, for it makes the burden of business cares lighter and the work more inviting.

Did you ever see the "Devil" possibly not. Perched on the top of this stack of paper is the "Devil!" We mean "our Devil"—rather a "Printers

## TO DELINQUENTS.

Before the holidays a statement was sent to all subscribers showing the amount they were in arrears on their paper. A great many promptly remitted, while others failed to respond. The Postal regulations forbid us to mail papers to persons who are over one year in arrears. Technically we are violating the Postal Laws if we continue to do this. For the reason next week bills will again be sent to all who owe more than one year.

If you get a bill next week, you will know what that means. An early reply containing a remittance will be expected. Otherwise we are compelled to remove your name from our mailing list, and the account will have to be placed in other hands for collection, as we can not edit a paper and look after a lot of small accounts and countless correspondents.

Kindly give this the attention it deserves.

## THE PUBLISHER.

## FRIDAY'S FLOOD.

There was a bit of excitement about the old town last week caused by a warm spell and a continuous rain. With the ground frozen solid to a considerable depth, the surface covered with several inches of sleet and ice, and this topped over with about 18 inches of snow, conditions were favorable for a flood. The mild weather on Friday night and morning caused the snow to melt rapidly, the rain helped it along and soon the water was rushing in torrents to the beds of the streams. Every depression had a pool of water and every ravine was a swollen water course. Little of the water could soak in the earth, but sought the streams. This meant a flood and we had it.

Spring creek and all other streams in this part of the state were at flood tide Friday afternoon. Possibly once or twice heretofore waters were higher, but it was a genuine flood nevertheless. Spring creek must have risen about ten feet, here in Bellefonte. The Match Factory had to shut down, the big spring was flooded at the time with surface drainage; the Watchman office had about five feet in their press room, submerging their presses. The Republican office had the same experience. The steam plant in the Bush House was put out of commission for about a day. The stone wall and walk near the Central R. R. of Pa. was torn away for a distance of about 75 feet. The floor of the Lamb street bridge was reached and any considerable drift would have carried it away. The flat about the lime kilns and railroad engine house was a mass of water, submerging the railroad track, interfering with traffic. The fair grounds were considerably washed and the track damaged by deep gullies cut in it. None of the buildings were moved.

The flood caused a great deal of trouble on Howard street where the sewers were not properly opened or were insufficient to carry off the surface water. Many of the cellars were filled with mud and filth that caused a great deal of inconvenience.

Traffic on the Lewisburg railroad was suspended on Friday afternoon by damage to the Sinking creek bridge, above Spring Mills.

There was more or less trouble throughout the county, but no serious damage done. At Orviston the railroad bridge to the Hayes Run brick works was damaged by an ice gorge and part of the town submerged by back water.

to get a taste of it. The battle waxed strong and it was a little difficult to close. Many prophecies were made on both sides, but when the votes were counted it was found that Mr. Keichline had won out by a majority of 11 votes. The Republicans nominated W. C. Castle for the same office. As there were no other contests, the following are the names of the candidates on both sides for the ward offices:

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| North Ward.                    |                  |
| REPUBLICANS                    | DEMOCRATS        |
| George Williams, Inspector     | J. J. Barthelet  |
| S. B. Miller, Judge            | Daniel Heckman   |
| Harry Keiser, Constable        | Rev. John Hewitt |
| Chas. F. Cook, School Director | Henry Wenzel     |
| Willard Hall, Assessor         | Kilne Woodring   |
| W. H. Musser, J. of P.         | J. of P.         |
| South Ward.                    |                  |
| Scott Low, Inspector           | Harry Walkey     |
| Henry Brown, Judge             | Homer Barnes     |
| Alvin Dale, School Director    | Wm. C. Heinle    |
| Schl. Direct.                  | Wm. C. Heinle    |
| Root, Montgomery, Assessor     | George Doll      |
| West Ward.                     |                  |
| Alvin Waite, Inspector         | Wm. Treasurer    |
| Harry Gerberich, Judge         | A. Lukens        |
| S. B. Broome, Constable        | Dominick Judge   |
| James Rice, Assessor           | L. B. McCoy      |
| Constable                      | Chas. McCoy      |

On Monday the delegates from the respective caucuses, of both parties, had an adjourned meeting. Al Dale was chairman of the Republican meeting when they had quite a stormy time, but before they adjourned everything was peaceful and calm. No nomination was made against P. H. Ghererty, the democratic nominee for overseer of the poor. Cheney Hicklen, who was nominated on Saturday night for school director in the South ward, withdrew and accepted the nomination for borough auditor. This leaves Hon. W. C. Heinle clear sailing for school director in the South ward. He has made a good director and the Senator highly appreciates this compliment from his Republican friends. The Democrats made no nomination against Ed. Ghererty, the Republican nominee for borough treasurer; so that the deal between him and P. H. Ghererty, for poor overseer, is all right. They are both honest and competent men, needed in our local offices. Wagner Geiss was nominated for borough auditor. In the North ward the Democrats made no nomination against W. H. Musser for justice of the peace, for which Mr. Musser is thankful. It saves him from worrying his head off and being awake at night wondering what the voters were going to do with him. This is fair, owing to the fact that the Republicans made no nomination for school director against W. C. Heinle.

We are glad that both parties are becoming more liberal in their views and look more to the men than to party. This is the only method by which the people can secure the best and purest legislation, and should be more liberally adopted.

**Shot at Husband.**  
With intentions that measured up to what she considered the demands of the situation, Mrs. William Madera, of Teagertown, near Lewisburg, went gunning for her husband, and failed to get him only because of defective marksmanship.

At a hearing held following the shooting, Mrs. Madera alleged that she had followed her husband to the home of Mrs. Maud Stringfellow, entered the house and then opened fire with a thirty-eight caliber revolver. Four bullets whizzed close to Madera's head, but he was unharmed. When Sheriff S. H. Boyer arrived he placed Madera and Mrs. Stringfellow under arrest and they were held for court.



MR. AND MRS. A. SUSSMAN.

filled shelves, and said, "How much will you take for it, building included?" Haynes named his price and without a moment's hesitation Weber replied, "I'll take it; when will you give possession?" "Right away, its all yours, except the contents of the safe," Mr. Haynes directed his clerk, John W. Gardner, who was also his brother-in-law, to lock the safe and bring him the key; Gardner walked over to the cash drawer and began taking out the cash received for the morning's sales, when Haynes said to him, "Never mind that, it goes with the safe—everything but the safe, and with that they both