The Advocate.

Henry A. Parsons, Jr., - Editor

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1881.

ENTERED AT THE POST-OFFICE AT RIDGWAY, PA., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

Elk County Dusters.

Elk county, unlike its sister county of Forest, on the side of it next to the setting sun, is to some extent, to bread winning; that is to say, making a living for itself. The land, which originally was held in large tracts by lumber companies, with the disappearance of the valuable timber, has been cut up into small holdings. A few of the fronteer townships are as yet wrapped pretty much in solitude and timber, but some portions of the interior present, in a limited way, a Garden of Eden aspect quite in contrast to its "backwoods" locality. The topography of the country is broken like McKean county. Its hills are bold, bluff, and, when denuded of timber, remarkable bald. The highest peaks contain coal, and the mountain brooks are alive with trout. The county, in a word, is famous for its tanneries, its dry holes and for its unique political complexion. Among its tanneries is the largest leather manufacturing establishment in the world, to wit, The Schultz Tannery, Wilcox. Its dry holes are the driest in the land, while its Democrats are the democratest anywhere.

Elk county has long had aspirations of the oil character. Away back in the times just prior to the late "onpleasantness," a fever of speculation swept over the county. Thousands of acres were taken up which subsequently reverted to their owners—undrilled. During the war and immediately succeeding that event, a number of oil producing enterprises took shape. Several companies were organized, and some of them proceeded to business in a business like manner. Operations in those early times were confined to valleys and adjacent to large streams, under the then existing belief that oil flowed in regular subterranean channels, like rivers do on the surface. According to this theory, the valley of the Clarion River, being the largest stream in the county, was very popular as well sites.

In 1864 George Dickinson, a victim to the prevailing oil fever of the times, built a rig and drilled a well on his lands in the western suburb of Ridgway. The labor was prosecuted by water power. He worried the hole along and in a year or so had punched the opening down 800. At 815 he struck gas. The enterprise soon after this was abandoned. Later, work was resumed by Mr. Hagerty, of Ridgway, under whose direction the well was sunk to a depth of 900 feet. No oil being found, the sponge was thrown up and the well abandoned for good.

About the same year General Stewart and others drilled a shallow hole on Elk Creek one mile west of Daguscahonda. This venture also graduated at 900 feet. No oil was found. The same parties drilled another well, two and a half miles west of Daguscahonda. This one died early likewise. In 1874 Brookville parties secured a lease at the mouth of Millstone township, on which a well was drilled. I am without reliable data concerning it. The log, if any was kept, is very imperfect. A driller who did service on the well states that 100 feet of sand was found, and a showing of oil obtained. The showing of oil is all right That part has been corroborated by competent witnesses. The same authority states that the well was drilled 2,000 feet and then abandoned without testing. In this connection people living hard by the well say that the mill men in all that country side get their supplies of crude oil from this well. The oil which they use for both illuminating and lubricating purposes is obtained by dipping from the conductor hole. Millstone township is in the extreme southwestern portion of the county. Millstone Creek is a tributary of the Clarion River. This one was the first deep well drilled in the county, and the only one in some fifteen tests that is accredited with oil. In the three years following the completion of the Millstone well, the drill was given a rest in this county.

The next wildcat venture to disturb the afternoon siestas of the owls was that of the late lamented John Wallace, now in Heaven. This venture is located on warrant 3,261, Ridgway township, two miles northeast of Wilcox. The drill was started in April, 1878, and stopped June 26, having registered 1,760 feet. No oil was discovered. The sands were found regular, but there was not very much of it. The drillers say they thought they could detect the presence of oil in the sand pumpings. Only a suspicion of it and nothing more. The drill stopped 145 feet below the ocean line.

About the same time the P. C. L. & P. Co. built a rig on warrant 3,257, Jones township, about one mile east of Wallace well. The drill was started April 1, and stopped in the bottom of the hole at 1,992 feet; elevation above tide level, 1,595 feet. The well was cased at 380 feet; salt water was found at 250 feet. Little or no sands were found—fifty-one feet of sand is reported between 1,706 and 1,756 feet. The top of this sand is 200 feet below ocean level. The land upon which this well was drilled is owned by the Wilcox Lumber and Tanning Company.

Next in order of development comes the well of Reub Boughton and others on warrant 2151, Jones township, about four miles west and one and one-half miles north of the Wallace well. The log of this well is not obtainable. Mr. M. M. Schultz, of Wilcox, says, in his opinion, the well was not drilled deep enough for oil. He thinks it stopped at 1,700 feet. No oil was found as far as they had gone, First and second sand was found "O. K." as Col. Schultz expresses it but the third was "non est." Mr. Schultz suspicions are no doubt ill founded. Boughton is a good careful operator, and one not easily deceived in sands. It is not like a good operator to "swap horses in the middle of the stream. But, in the event that matters are substantially as Mr. Schultz suspects them to be, Mr. Boughton is still on the safe side. A certain saving clause in the lease relating to depressed prices for oil prevents the instrument working for forfeiture.

In the following year F. H. Clemminger, of Bradford, Colonel Hunt, of Sawyer and others, took up some lands in the northeastern part of Highland township. They made a location on warrant 3788; land of Jones Bros., first well was drilled 2,000 feet. The Bradford stratas came in perfect regularity, according to Mr. Clemminger; 50 feet of third sand is reported. Eight to ten feet of it was sufficiently open and porous to bear oil, but perfectly dry. The sands resemble Kinzua sands in appearance, being a coffee-brown. A tremendous gas lead was opened. A 40 quart shot was exploded in the hole, which had no effect than to increase the gas. Last summer another rig was built 53 rods southwest of No. 2. The leasehold and property meantime passing into the control of Roy & Archer, who drilled No. 2. This one was finished six weeks ago, or, more properly, was believed to be finished about that time. It was drilled into the sand, at all events. Sand was struck at 2,060 feet. It is supposed to be from 50 to 60 feet in thickness. It has got no gas to speak of, and the impression prevails in Kane that the sand showing is an improvement on No. 1 sand. No. 2 has not been shot. More than that, there is a person in Kane willing to risk his "alfred davy" that there is nothing there to shoot. The improved prospects are mere conjecture of the part of the inhabitants. The terms of their contract with the landlords require them to start another well in March.

Jonathan Watson drilled a well on the East Branch of the Clarion river, at Johnsonburg, warrant 3,285; land of E. W. Rolfe. The mouth of this well is 1,441 feet above ocean level. The hole was drilled 2,300 feet. The persistent oil sands were found in their proper order. Third sand was struck 1,660 feet It was 30 feet in thickness but contained no oil. Gas was found in both the lower sands. The top of the third sand is 219 feet below the ocean level. No oil sands are reported below the third strata. A gas jet of about two-boiler power which, like the sacred fires is kept constantly burning and lightens up the gloom for Johnsonburgers. Watson, after the failure of the Johnsonburg venture, moved 4 miles south and located another well on warrant 4,860; land of Hyde. No. 2 is located on the southeast corner of the warrant and about 1¼ miles east of a north and south line running from No. 1 to No. 2. Well mouth above ocean level, 1,445 feet. The drill was started during last summer, and stopped on Saturday last, having concluded its mission, but without bringing joy to the hearts of the daring experimentalists. Three well defined oil sands were found, but some of them were so slender as to require the service of a microscope to aid detection. Third sand was found at 1,660 feet, being of a precise depth as that found at Johnsonburg. But it was only a few feet in thickness and wholly destitute of oil, drilling was continued to the depth of 2,290 feet. No gas was discovered anywhere in the hole, and no salt water to speak of. Monday the casing was drawn, and the hole abandoned. This is the third dry hole that Mr. Watson has drilled in this section of country, the first one being on the Hebron lands, McKean county.

Five miles southwest of Watson's Whistletown venture Seth and Marcus Hulings drilled a well on warrant 4394 Daguscahonda on Elk creek and on lands of Col. Bates, Sheldon and others. This well was drilled to a depth of 1905 feet. Three regular oil sands were found, third sand being discovered at 1681 feet. Hulings reports 55 feet of third sand and slight indications of oil. It was shot with twenty-two quarts of glycerine, but the shock failed to have effect, either for good or evil. The venture was abandoned without any further test being made. The mouth of this well is about 1478 feet above the ocean level. The third sand according to those figures underlies the ocean level 206 feet. No gas.

Hulings moved two miles east and located another well at Seahonda, on warrant 4,406, owned as above. Well mouth above the ocean level, 1,519 feet. Drilling was begun on or about November 17 and stopped Feburary 10 when the well was reported to be 1,845 feet. Mr. Hulings says he got a better showing here than in No. 1 at Dagus'. He reports oil and gas in the second sand—gas enough to furnish fuel for boiler. Second sand was found at 1 400 feet 40 feet in thickness The third sand was struck at 1,720 feet, 50 feet in thickness. Mr. Hulings says he thought he could detect the presence of oil in the sand pumpings. He says the sand is a grayish dark or coffee color. The third sand in this well is 351 feet below the tide, and 48 feet lower than the same sand horizon at the Daguscahonda well, two miles to westward. Mr. Hulings says he noticed a change in the stratas from the mountain sand to the bottom of the well. The well has not been shot. Mr. Hulings thinks it is quite probably that he will drill an additional fifty feet. He thinks that a well, if drilled a mile or two south of Seahonda would no doubt strike it rich. This well is located on the line of the P. & E. R. R., three miles west of St. Marys and seven and a half miles east of Ridgway, the capitol of the county.

Green Bros., of Warren, drilled two wells north of St. Marys about two years ago, the first one being in the centre of warrant 4,084. Drilled 1,200 feet, no oil no gas. The second well was located about three miles north of St. Marys, on the Williamsport road, and on warrant 4,104. This well is not unlike its contemporary in its results. Both were dry, both found sand, and both, it is believed, got a little gas. Mr. Huling thinks they are not deep enough to catch the third sand rock. These wells are north and east of Hulings' wells, and, if deep enough, certainly cook the goose of Benzinger township, as likewise are the Watson wells, add also that of Grant & Horton, on warrant 4,867, one mile west of Ridgway Borough. This well was drilled 1,800 feet, got sand but no oil. A 40-quart shot was exploded in it which did not seem to amend matters. A well, I understand, was drilled in Benezette township. With the exceptions of the important fact that it is dry, no other information is at hand.

This article covers all the wells drilled in Elk county up to this date, with the single exception of the Pratt & Hallock well, Millstone township. Not shut down at 1,600 feet and presumably dry. Sixteen hundred feet at that point is certainly deep enough to intercept the third sand if any exists there. The list of dusters include 16, and all that have ever been drilled in the county a sufficient depth for oil. They are widely scattered and condemn a large scope of territory The third sands in all wells of which records are obtainable, were found at a singularly uniform depth, and almost a uniform depth of seam. The Whistletown well being the furthermost west of the eastern series of wells getting least sand; while Hulings' No 2 at Seahonda on the east side got the greatest depth The prospects for oil in paying quantities in Elk county are of the bluest possible sort.

The Compromised Candidate.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE TIOGA LAWYER AND LEGISLATOR.

John I. Mitchell who has been elected to the United States Senate by the Pennsylvania Legislature, was born at Mitchell's Creek, Tioga county, and is now in his 44th year. He worked upon a farm and attended the public schools until he attained the age of 18, when he entered the Lewisburg Seminary, in Union County, where he was the classmate of Representative Charles S. Wolfe. He graduated about 1858 and read law with Hon. F. E. Smith of Tioga, after which he was admitted to the bar of that county. During the Civil War he enlisted in Colonel Bayne's Regiment, the 136th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was promoted to the rank of Captain. Upon his return home he located at Wellsboro, Tioga county, and resumed the practice of law, which he has continued successfully since. In the year 1868 he was elected District Attorney of the county, and at the expiration of his term of office in 1871 was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he took a leading part in legislation and served continuously until 1876. For several sessions he was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and was regarded as the leader on the Republican side of the House. In 1876, without his seeking, he received the unanimous nomination of his party in the Sixteenth District for Congress and was elected by a handsome majority. He was re-elected in 1878, and during the summer of 1880 he wrote his friends a letter declining to be a candidate again. His present term expires on the 4th of March, when he will be promoted from the House to the Senate of the United States. Mr. Mitchell has always been a close student. His reading has been varied and extensive. He stands well as a lawyer, and is a logical, forcible and eloquent speaker. He is about five feet eleven inches in height, weighs two hundred pounds, and has a fine personal presence.

HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

John I. Mitchell is about five feet eleven inches high and rather stout. His face is round full and always wears an expression of good nature. He wears chin whiskers, which are light in color, has a handsome mouth, and he will be known as one of the good-looking Senators. He is a fair speaker, and though he would not be called an orator he always speaks to the point. At times, as on one occasion when he had a wordy encounter with Speaker Patterson when a member of the Legislature, he shows that he has great force of expression. Among his friends Mr. Mitchell is not regarded as a hard worker, indeed, he is said to incline rather to indolence. He has the habit of running his hands through his hair, which gives his head a bushy appearance He has kept entirely aloof from the present Senatorial contest, and has hardly been considered a dark horse, having been in Harrisburg but twice this winter. He was supposed to be a supporter of General Beaver, and, it is said, endeavored to secure the representatives of his county to that gentleman about ten days ago, but he was not successful.

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Estate of Albert Brehm, late of Benzinger township, Elk county, Pa., deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary have been granted to the undersigned, upon the above named estate. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims against the same to present them without delay, in proper order, for settlement.

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TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST AND 2D DAYS OF MARCH, 1881,

For the purpose of hearing and determining appeals from the assessments, and revising the military enrollment for 1881, which time and place all persons feeling themselves aggrieved by said assessment or enrollment can attend, if they see proper.

By Order of the Board.

Attest—W. S. HORTON, Clerk.

Commissioners' Office, Feburary 10, 1881. } feb10-3w

Ursula M'Inerney, By her next friend, Ann Dukelow, vs. Thomas M'Inerney,	In the Court of Common Pleas Elk Co, No. 17, Nov. Term, 1881.

DIVORCE.

To the respondent above named:

Take notice, that subpœna and alias subpœna having been issued in the above entitled case, and returned "not found in the county," you are hereby notified to appear before the said Court, at Ridgway, Pa., on the FOURTH MONDAY OF MAY, A. D. 1881, to answer the said libellant's complaint.

THOMAS SULLIVAN, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, Ridgway, Pa., Feb. 10, 1881 } GEO. A. RATHBUN, Attorney for Libellant. eb10 6w

ESTATE NOTICE.

Estate of Elizabeth Zemmett Glass, late of Benzinger township, Elk county, Pa., deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary have been granted to the undersigned upon the above named estate. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having legal claims against the same to present them without delay, in proper order, for settlement.

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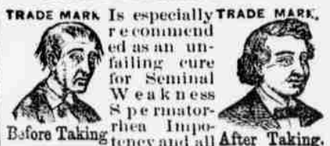

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