



CENTRE HALL REPORTER.

CENTRE HALL, PA., March 18th 1890

The radical majority in New Hampshire is about 1,100, a loss of 2,600 since last year, and of about 6,000 on the majority for Grant.

Belleville has two radical papers each of which has an idea upon which it is insane. The Republican is crazy upon the court house ring, while the National has gone crazy over our representative, J. G. Meyers, and keeps up its low flings at gentlemen from week to week. We can assure the stock concern, that Meyer "still lives," and will survive its attacks, and to the apple dumpling sheet we can say that "the ring" still keeps round as ever.

POOR HOUSE.

The citizens of Miesburg and Boggs township have petitioned the legislature for the passage of an act authorizing the erection of a poor-house by said borough and township. The petition also asks that the act be extended to as many townships or boroughs of Centre county, as shall decide by ballot in favor of the same.

BILL TO PREVENT THE FIRING OF TIMBER LANDS.

The following bill, in which many citizens of our county are interested, has passed the lower house at Harrisburg. Centre county has suffered great loss from the fires in her mountains, during the last twenty years, the work of evil disposed persons—that some stringent law is needed to protect the timber lands from wanton destruction.

It is important to the people of the State that timberlands should be protected from fire, which, owing to malicious conduct and carelessness of individuals, is causing vast havoc to the young growing timber, especially upon our mountains; therefore:

Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That it shall be the duty of the commissioners of the several counties of this Commonwealth to appoint persons, under oath, whose duty it shall be to ferret out and bring to punishment all persons who either wilfully or otherwise cause the burning of timber lands, and to take measures to have such fires extinguished where it can be done, the expenses thereof to be paid out of the county treasury, the unassessed land tax to be first applied to such expenses.

Sec. 2 That the provisions of the act of 9th of April, 1863, entitled An act to prevent the firing of mountains and other wild lands in the county of Union, be and the same is hereby extended to all the counties of this Commonwealth.

On motion of Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Fulton, the House reconsidered the vote by which bill entitled An act to prevent timber land from fire was passed. The bill being again before the House it was amended to include in its provisions only the counties of Schuylkill, Lehigh, Berks, Lycoming, Centre, Snyder, Luzerne, and Union, and again passed finally.

Our state legislature has been in session now since first week in January and virtually doing nothing at all that will result in one copper's worth of good to the people. Had they passed a simple resolution discharging the little army of idle pasters and folders, who have had nothing to do, as there were no public documents for them to do up, the people might think that there was a sprinkling of honesty and economy left in our radical servants at Harrisburg. But they have shown a disposition of an entirely opposite character; when the appropriation bill was up, it contained a clause allowing the pasters and folders two hundred dollars more pay than they ever before received, notwithstanding there has not been one days work for them, during this session. The number of pasters was more than double what was required, four years ago, yet last year the radical legislature added one third to their number. This winter they might have been dispensed with entirely, as the readers of the Reporter are well aware there were no documents to fold and paste, hence they have had nothing to do but smoke, drink whiskey, play cards and visit State street, and for this they should have \$200 added to their salary.

Not a single act has been passed this winter, that looks to economy or lessening the burdens of the taxpayer. We venture to say, on the other hand, that in all the legislation we have had this winter, the bad will far outweigh the good. Legislation now-a-days is nearly all for the benefit of private individuals and to further schemes of speculation, at the expense of the masses, and we think it would be a blessing for the people if the institution called the legislature should be abolished for least the next five years.

Subscribe for the Reporter.

Letter from the Oil Regions.

PLEASANTVILLE, PA., Mar. 4, 70.

Editor Reporter—Agreeably to promise I set myself down to give your readers a description of a portion of the oil region, wherein I have been chasing that giddy jade, fortune, for some time past, with but indifferent success.

Pleasantville, so called, is situated in the northern part of Venango county, Pa., 6 miles south east of Titusville, and 25 miles north east from Franklin. It received its name from its location in an undulating region, which, when stripped of its forests, seems to have been touched by the pencil of nature in imitation of those rolling prairies of the west.

The history of Pleasantville dates back half a century, at a time when the pioneer landing at Erie, could only lead the natives in reference to the country between there and the Alleghenies; that it was divided into the French creek, Oil creek, and Pit-hole countries, about that time a Mr. Benedict, a surveyor from the State of N. Y. came here and took up some four hundred acres of land which was then owned by the Holland Land Company, gave the place its present name and shortly afterward became the local agent for that extensive land company. He started several pursuits of industry and always believed that eventually this would be the most wealthy part of Pennsylvania; his days were happily prolonged until after Drake's oil discoveries, realizing the beginning of his early prognostications.

Pleasantville was incorporated as a borough in 1849 with a population of 200 inhabitants, in 1865 it could boast of 400 all told—quiet, inoffensive, sober and industrious citizens, little dreaming that the Magic Lamp of Aladdin was concealed beneath them, soon to blaze forth, transforming tatters into tassels, and tinsel into gold. The first effort made to develop the resources of this region, was made in the spring of 1865 by a Mr. Nettleton, who succeeded in forming a company who put down a well some eight hundred feet and struck a fifteen barrel pumping well. This caused a sensation so flattering. People became agitated, nervous and wondered if they had ever occupied as humble a position in society as their less fortunate neighbors. The Nettleton well, as a matter of course, was but an incentive to further enterprise, and a number of wells were immediately put in operation; but by some fatality none of them succeeded in getting oil in paying quantities. Hard times came on, partly owing to the failure of Culver & Co., taking out of the county some \$4,000,000. Thus the scarcity of money, low price of oil and bad luck in getting it, put a quietus to the excitement, a sedative to their nerves, and a check to the abortive and futile effort to deliver Oleum, the child of Destiny, from the womb of nature. Thus ended the oil excitement in this place till the spring of 1883 when a Mr. A. James, a spiritualist, became impressed with the conviction that within the borough limits there was an abundance of oil, and governed himself accordingly in the location of what was known as the Harmonical well No. 1. He produced in a short time a 70 barrel well which shortly afterwards commenced flowing and flowed for about four months, when they had to resort to pumping again. He located other wells with similar success. Hundreds flocked to see him; some to win his influence, and many for curiosity. This unprecedented streak of luck soon awakened a lively interest in the minds of capitalists in the adjoining districts. Fabulous stories were told in reference to the quantity of oil produced. A fifty barrel well was easily represented by interested parties to be producing one hundred barrels of oil per day. These larger wells flowing only in the imagination of land owners and speculators, produced an excitement that baffles description. For three or four months the multitudes of people on the streets presented the appearance of a political mass meeting. Private houses, bars, engine houses, &c., were thronged at night with lodgers, while hundreds returned each night to Titusville and other towns for accommodations. So many wells were put down in such close proximity to each other, that at the present time, it has had a tendency to lessen the amount of production greatly. A great number of derricks have been torn down and operators are now testing the adjoining territory with considerable success, thereby opening up a new oil field embracing a radius of ten miles. The oil belt, so far as has been tested, seems to be about a mile wide and six or seven miles in length, running in a N. E. and S. W. direction, leaving the principal part of the town on the north of the belt. At the S. W. end is located the National wells on land owned by the National Oil Company, which were put down three years ago and are still doing well; a little further down is what is called the "red hot district," owned principally by Mr. Persons. This is excellent oil territory and a great deal of excitement prevails there at the present writing, in consequence of some very heavy oil strikes having recently been made there. Passing in a N. E. direction, we come across the Brown, Fertig & Holbrook, on the west end of which are some small wells, we then come to the Davies, Holbrook, Hinkley, and Armstrong farms, all of which are producing oil. In our travels S. E. we cross the Clark farm; this is considered good territory and thus far no dry holes have as yet been found. N. E. we cross the Porter and Brown track of land, which have proved productive. N. E. of this the farms are not so thoroughly tested, but probably will be shortly as far as Neilsburg, a beautiful little town about four miles distant—north of us—about the same distance at Enterprise. They are also

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A Cool Declaration.

Simon Cameron declared in the United States Senate, in speaking in favor of the admission of the negro Revels to his seat, that "the tide of war would have gone against us had it not been for the 200,000 NEGROES WHO CAME TO THE RESCUE."

This is a cool declaration, and we want the white soldiers who pride themselves upon their prowess and ability to cope with Southern soldiers, to make a note of this fact. Here is a declaration that they were unable to match the soldiers of the South in battle, and 200,000 negroes had to be called in to help them or else get whipped. Boys in blue, how do you like it?

Simon, however, we think was referring to the condition of the Radical party. He was very anxious for the 15th Amendment, because it is sharp enough to see that the "tide of war" is against the Radical party, and he wants to call in 500,000 negro votes to help that party out of trouble. Sharp man, that Simon.

A Dry Goods War!

A New York letter says:

For several days a desperate fight has been going on between Stewart and Claffin, the kings of the dry goods market. Stewart started it by marking down below Claffin's figures. Claffin followed suit; Stewart cut down again; then Claffin; then Stewart; then Claffin again; then Stewart once more, and so the war has gone on for a week. Dry goods men tell me they never saw the market so excited as it is by this war between the two great houses. Both parties are selling at prices that are absolutely ruinous. Trade was so disturbed yesterday by their operations that the agents of the different mills held a meeting and decided not to sell to any one except at a certain fixed price. Stewart had been selling some lines far below the agents' prices (losing heavily, of course), and they thought to steady the market by giving notice that they would not sell to any man who attempted to undersell them. Stewart continues his "bear" operations, however, and the excitement is rising to a fever. He has demoralized the market to such an extent that it may take some weeks to restore steadiness. Several lines of seasonable goods are now going at a reduction of thirty to forty per cent. from last week's prices. The fight is characterized by outsiders as "throat cutting," and all the jobbers are swearing at Stewart like an army fresh from Flanders. Stewart's pugnacity and capital will carry him through, but houses not so strong as his will probably go by the board before the storm blows over.

A Bank Entered at Mid-day by Thieves—Twelve Thousand Dollars Stolen.

Of all the bold bank robberies of which we have seen any account, that one yesterday, at the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, of East Birmingham, was certainly the boldest. Between the hours of twelve and one o'clock a buggy containing three men was driven up to the bank, when it halted and two of the occupants alighted and entered the banking room. The cashier, who was the only person present, had gone into the Directors' room which is immediately in the rear of the banking room, for the purpose of taking his noonday lunch. The men giddily noisily across the floor of the front room and upon reaching the door leading to the Directors' suddenly closed it and turned the key, thus making a prisoner of the cashier. The man then hastily gathered up the money from the counter, some twelve thousand dollars, and placing it in a basket, decamped with their booty, and were soon seated in their buggy.

The cashier was so idle during this time, however. He promptly burst open the door, and succeeded in reaching the street about the time the robbers had started their vehicle. The bank officer pursued them so rapidly as to overtake the horse and seize the reins before the animal had taken twenty steps. Notwithstanding he was menaced by the soundness, the cashier valiantly retained his grasp of the reins until two of the robbers—one of them carrying the basket containing the money—jumped out and scampered away in the direction of Ormsburg. Then the cashier let the horse go and gave his whole attention to the fellow who had the basket. The pursuit was so close that the thieves found it necessary to take refuge in a house on Harmony street, East Birmingham, a short distance up the hill, occupied by a Mrs. Davis. The cashier by this time