

# Pike County Press.

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## THE WASHINGTON LETTER

The past week has been a busy if not an anxious one for the president. The near approach of the Chicago convention is bringing political matters to a climax. The platform is being thoughtfully considered, especially what shall be said about tariff and reciprocity. As to the vice presidency, Mr. Roosevelt is not bothering himself, although it is remarkable how many men profess to be anxious to dodge the nomination. The highest opinion now is that it will naturally go to Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana. The "drift" is conceded to be in his direction, and if he should be snowed under with votes at Chicago, he will take the compliment very kindly, even sacrificing his feelings and inclinations. The labor question in Colorado begins to loom up, and all sorts of frantic appeals come to the White House urging the president to take some decisive action. This he cannot do, of course, until called upon by the governor of Colorado. But the matter appears to be assuming national importance, and may have a political effect.

In common with all citizens the president has been shocked and deeply stirred over the terrible disaster in New York. He has ordered Secretary Cortelyou to make a thorough, short, sharp and decisive investigation putting the blame where it belongs. The inspection of steamboats is a function of the Federal government, conducted by Federal officers. If there has been any neglect of duty, or bribery, the president wishes to know it. As he said in his speech last Saturday, in the unveiling of the Rush statue, all he asks from the subordinates of the government is "decency and efficiency." The charges are that the life preservers on the Slocum were rotten and worthless; that the life boats could not be lowered; that the pumps would not work; that the old steamer was but tinder-wood; that there was no discipline among the crew and that the inspectors were corrupt. All these matters it is the duty of the government to investigate, and if there is inefficiency in the inspectors office in New York the world wants to know it. Another matter which the president realizes is of some gravity, is the difficulty surrounding the case of General Tyler, who has appealed to him for vindication. He has had in consultation Attorney General Knox, Secretary Cortelyou, Murray Crane and Holmes Conrad, who will doubtless suggest the reply which will be made. It is thought it may contain some surprises for General Tyler.

It is extremely difficult to keep track of Secretary Cortelyou, and the promotions he has in view. His department has absorbed so many bureaus, and work is piling up so fast, and he is so popular and in such constant demand, that he has had to resort to sandwiches and express trains, to keep up with the flood of business. A few days ago he was in New England and Canada, inspecting immigrant stations. He hurried back to this city to find the National Republican committee wants him in Chicago. They came the awful disaster in New York, and the president sent him post haste to that city, to conduct the investigation. At the same time came the news of the collapse of the postmaster general at Chicago, with a prospect of a speedy vacancy in the cabinet, for which Mr. Cortelyou is slated. The news of the sudden dying out of Mr. Payne, in Chicago, where he is looking after postal matters, caused some excitement among those who do not know how ill he is and how long he has been declining in health. For reasons of public consideration, the exact state of his health is withheld from the public, as it was in the case of the late Senator Quay. The truth is Mr. Payne suffers from a "distressed stomach," from the "coil," from a tendency to "apoplexy," and from a general letting down of the vital powers. If Mr. Cortelyou is able to get around in time, he may fill all the openings which are waiting for him.

With few exceptions all excursion steamships plying upon the inland waters of this country, even on the Potomac from Washington to Norfolk, are more fire traps likely at any time to be destroyed as was the Slocum in New York. A telegram from General Dumont, inspector in New York, to the Department of Commerce and Labor in this city, stated that "the loss of life is something less than 200." It was known in New

York, on Thursday afternoon, that 849 people had lost their lives, and enough were missing to bring the total up to a round 1,000. It is quite wonderful how some officials always try to minimize their estimates. But the investigation ordered by the president will give the public all the facts. Possibly General Dumont will be asked to explain.

The secretary of the treasury was confident that on the 17th inst. the commissioners of the St. Louis Fair would pay over to the United States the sum of \$150,000 as the first installment of the refunding of the \$5,000,000 loaned by the government. On and after July 15, there must be a semi-monthly payment of \$500,000. The attendance of those who paid admissions, has thus far been very small, averaging only about 30,000 per day. The great prosperity of the country, and the fall in the price of the necessities of life, as shown by recent official reports, will undoubtedly induce many thousands to visit the fair later in the season.

They are still those who think the building of the Panama canal will be a gigantic, if not an impossible, job. Your correspondent recently met Dr. C. A. Stephens, a well known writer, in this city, who has just returned from a visit of observation to Panama. He says the Americans speak glibly of the possibility of a tide-water canal across the zone. In order to have a ditch 150 feet wide and 35 feet deep below the sea level, as contemplated, it will be necessary to remove 341,000,000 cubic metres of earth. If the United States should employ 20,000 laborers he says it would take 46 years and 9 days to remove this enormous mass, or until the year 1951. And he estimates the cost anywhere from 570 millions of dollars to 610 millions. The French are estimated to have lost 50,000 employees in their endeavor to dig the canal. To add to the complications there is a movement on foot by the labor unions of the United States to regulate the hours of labor and wages in the "zone." While a tide-water canal at Panama may be impossible, the government will find ways and means to construct a lock canal and govern the "zone" without any outside help.

Admiral and Mrs. Dewey expect to remain in Washington until the last of June. The sending of General H. C. Corbin to the Philippines just as soon as he gets through with his big sham battles on the Bull Run battle field, comes as a surprise. But it is generally understood that this service in foreign parts is but a stepping stone to make him the Lieutenant General of the Army. Senator Alger and wife, of Michigan, sail for Europe in July.

**Real Estate Transfers**  
Robert Vennie to John R. Vennie, tract in Blooming Grove, part of Andrew J. Butler warrants, lying north of abandoned temple, \$1.  
William H. Arnoux to Hugo Beld, 244 acres, Westfall, Cummins Half-way house place, \$2.  
David Gunn and others to Joseph G. Snyder, 213 acres, Lehman, formerly Hornbeck farm, \$1850.  
Charles Houck to John D. Houck, equal undivided interest in 532 acres, Greene, \$2 and exchange.  
John D. Houck to Charles Houck, equal undivided interest in lands in Greene, 5 tracts, \$2 and exchange.  
Louisa Miller to August Frank, 5 acres, Blooming Grove, on Promised land road, \$2.

**The Profits of Whisky**  
The Wichita (Kan.) Beacon puts much in little, thus:  
The distiller from the bushel of corn makes four gallons of whisky with the aid of various harmful products and adulterations. These four gallons of whisky retail for \$16.40.  
The farmer who raises the corn gets from 25 to 30 cents.  
The United States Government, through its tax on whisky, gets \$4.40.  
The railroad company gets \$1.  
The manufacturer gets \$1.  
The drayman who hauls the whisky gets 15 cents.  
The retailer gets \$7.  
The man who drinks the whisky gets drunk.  
His wife gets hunger and sorrow.  
His children get rags and insufficient food.

It has come to a fine pass when a man, Nick Carey for instance, cannot indulge in a smoke without calling out the fire department and half the people in town.

## LOCAL AND PERSONAL NOTES

Arthur Adams of Hunting Towers transacted business here Tuesday.  
James R. Bull and family occupy the Quiek cottage on Ann street.  
Geo. E. Horton and wife of Branchville, N. J., were in town Tuesday.  
Miss Jane Seaman of Turckahoe, N. Y., is a guest with friends in town.

Harry and Charles Doock of Brooklyn visited in town a day this week.  
County Superintendent Lucian Westbrook held examinations here this week.  
Harry, the 12 year old son of Maurice S. Quinn of Matamoras, died Tuesday after a long illness.

Harry Terwilliger and wife of Lake Wood, N. J., are guests with the former's parents here.  
Paul Schanno and wife and two children of Stroudsburg visited friends here the first of the week.

H. C. Hicks of New York, who years ago was a regular guest at the Sawmill House, is now registered at the Crisman.

John de C. Van Ethen of New York is spending his vacation in town. Miss Beatie Van Ethen is also home for the summer.

Little Miss Anna Bull celebrated her fourth birthday last Tuesday with a party on the lawn of Mrs. George Mitchell.

The boys of Camp Yapeochu are expected to arrive July 1st and will occupy the former quarters on the farm of J. C. Bull.

W. A. H. Mitchell went to Chicago as alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention, and before returning will visit the St. Louis exposition.

Miss Nancy Olmsted, a former resident of Dingman, but who has lived here for several years with her niece, is quite ill from the infirmities of age.

Thomas Sykes and wife of Philadelphia are stopping at the Centre Square Hotel. Mrs. Hughes, a granddaughter, with her family will occupy the Bellevue cottage on High street for the summer.

The Misses Bertha and Pamela Reed and Blanche Cross, who have been spending several weeks in Europe, returned last Sunday on the steamship Arabie and reached home Monday.

Two weddings of Matamoras people took place Tuesday evening when Miss Mary K. Schumacker and Joseph Mager were married at the parsonage of the Lutheran church by the Rev. Treber of Middletown and Miss Lena Gebhart and Joseph A. Schroeder were joined in wedlock at St. Joseph's church, Matamoras, by Father Tries.

## OBITUARY

**MRS. HANNAH JANE WESTFALL**  
News of the death of Mrs. Westfall, which occurred at Goettingen, Germany, this week, will awaken feelings of sadness in many here who knew her. She was a daughter of the late Allen Everett of Montague, N. J., and widow of Wilhelm Westfall, a former resident of the same township.  
While her son, Wilhelmus, was a student at Yale she lived there and suffered an attack of typhoid fever which probably undermined her constitution. When he went to Germany to pursue his mathematical studies, in which science he evidences great talent, she accompanied him and soon after was taken ill with liver trouble from which disease she succumbed. The remains will be sent home on a steamer.

**Wild Pigeons Returning**  
It is reported that wild pigeons are reappearing in large numbers in the Catskills. Some years ago they suddenly disappeared and no one knew where they went. It was not possible that they could have been killed off in the short space of time between when they were numerous and the time when they were all gone, and various suggestions have been made as to where they went. Some affirm that because of the countless numbers seen among the Andes Mountains in South America they all migrated there. The reason for their departure is surmised to have been their wholesale destruction and constant harassing by hunting and netting. If they return some law should be passed for their protection.

Richard Whitney is serving a 20 days sentence in the jail here for unlawfully riding on an Erie train.

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## FOR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT

**A Large Meeting of Ladies Held and an Organization Perfected**

A number of MILFORD ladies responded to the call for a meeting to discuss the question of organizing a village improvement association and it was unanimously resolved to proceed. After a brief explanation of the objects and aims of such a society, on motion Mrs. J. H. Van Ethen was elected president, Mrs. A. E. Lewis 1st vice president, Mrs. W. H. Armstrong 2nd vice president, Mrs. Susan Wolfe secretary, and Mrs. S. T. White treasurer. A committee on Organization and By-Laws was appointed and the meeting adjourned to convene Tuesday afternoon, June 28, at 4 p. m., at the Court House. At that time the committee to draft by-laws will report and other committees who will have charge of the various details will be appointed. It is desired that this meeting may be largely attended, for initiatory steps will be taken to put the association on an active basis and to begin such plans as may be devised for village improvement.

## Rode a Big Fish

Notwithstanding reports that the applejack business in Jersey is on the wane and that only small quantities are made, there must be some left or else the people of that state have found a fairly good substitute. A hotel keeper, living on the shores of Green Pond in Morris county, reports that recently while out fishing for pickerel, suddenly an immense bubble nearly capsize his boat and in a second after something struck his troll and away went the outfit in tow. Three times was the boat pulled around the pond, then the hotel keeper got the fish to the surface and caught it by the gills, but it jerked him from the boat into the water and he landed on its back. The fish went bucking down toward the outlet where the water is shallow. There a companion of the hotel keeper was ready with a large rope and the fish was lassoed and after great exertions towed ashore when the hotel keeper swooned. The fish was a pickerel, six hundred pounds and is estimated to be five hundred years old. The hotel keeper says he has learned to estimate the age of pickerel by the condition of their scales, the wrinkles on their fins and the color of their flesh.

## U. S. Geological Survey

Acting in cooperation with the State Survey Commission of Pennsylvania, several parties from the federal survey are now engaged in topographic work in this state. Of these parties one is in charge of R. D. Cummin, assisted by Messrs. Robert Coe and J. I. Treidel; one in charge of E. B. Clark, assisted by J. S. B. Daingerfield; and one in charge of A. C. Roberts, assisted by E. B. Alexander. These parties are expected to map, in the course of the season, large portions of Washington, Allegheny, Butler and Westmoreland counties, covering the industrial and mineral region centering about Pittsburgh. A similar district in Cambria and Somerset counties, of which Johnstown is the commercial center, will be surveyed. In the eastern part of the state, portions of Juniata, Snyder, Perry, Montgomery, Berks, Chester and Lancaster counties will be surveyed.

## Cleveland's Bond Issue

The New York World is sending out a history of what it calls "The great bond conspiracy of the Cleveland administration" when the President attempted to float a loan through a syndicate of New York bankers which would have cost the government twenty million dollars. At that time D. B. Hill, who is now urging Judge Parker for the Presidential nomination, was one of the six senators out of fifty-four to vote against a motion to consider immediately the resolution prohibiting secret bond contracts, and the World says "let himself loose dramatically on the subject."

## Erie World's Fair Train

Inasmuch as several of our readers probably were contestants in the competition for \$100 in gold offered by the Erie Company to be paid for a suitable name for its new World's Fair train, it is announced that Joseph White of 418 Broome Street, New York, submitted as his choice the title "The Excelsior Express." A number of others suggested the same name but his letter was received first and the name above has been selected as meeting all requirements.

For local news read THE PRESS.

## INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS

Tuesday was the first day of summer.

The huckleberry crop promises to be large and the berries of fine size.

During a thunder storm last Monday lightning struck the court house at Stroudsburg but did little damage.

It is reported that the drug store of H. E. Emerson & Co. has been sold to a party from Liberty, N. Y., who will take possession and begin business about July first. It is a good location and there is no reason why the new proprietor, who is very favorably mentioned, should not have a fair share of business.

The big amateur athletic meet will be held at Scranton, Saturday, July 10, conducted under the auspices of the Scranton Tribune. It is open to all amateur athletes residing in northeastern Pennsylvania. Inquiries addressed C. R. H. Jackson, physical director Y. M. C. A., will be promptly answered.

Because of poor service by the O. & W. railroad, the hotel keepers of Monticello and Libertyville propose establishing an automobile line between those places and Middletown, N. Y. At that place Erie trains will be met and the time made to the famous summer resorts will be shorter than by the railroad.

The senior class of the Yale school of forestry left town last week. The junior class is expected to arrive about July first, and also members of the summer school. These will probably be upwards of fifty in all, who will go in camp and remain for the season. They will be in charge of Professors Graves and Tuomey who will have assistants in the work.

Erection of the bridge at Matamoras proceeds slowly. The New York Sun is on the false work but has not been riveted. Work has been commenced on the Pennsylvania span, and at the rate of progress made it seems as though it would be several weeks before there will be any crossing on the bridge. The ferries labor under inconvenience on account of low water. At the lower ferry the river is fordable and teams take advantage to drive across.

## REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

**Roosevelt and Fairbanks Nominated by Acclamation—A Strong Platform**

The republican convention in session at Chicago this week listened to a powerful speech by the temporary chairman Elihu Root. It was a masterly presentation of the history of the party, showing the good effects of its beneficent measures and methods and the general and continued prosperity of the country under republican rule.

Chairman Cannon made a powerful address and presented the issues in which the party will go before the country. The platform adopted is in brief as follows. It opens with an epitome of the past accomplishments and promises for the future:

The measure of protection should always at least equal the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad. We insist upon the maintenance of protective tariffs. Schedules should be readjusted only when conditions show the need and only by republican hands.

Combinations of capital and of labor are the results of the economic movement of the age, but neither must be permitted to infringe upon the rights and interests of the people.

We believe in the adoption of commercial reciprocity wherever reciprocal arrangements can be affected consistent with the principles of protection and without injury to American agriculture, American labor or any American industry.

We favor legislation which will encourage the American merchant marine.

We believe it to be the duty of the republican party to uphold the gold standard. The maintenance of the gold standard, established by the republican party, cannot safely be committed to the Democratic party, which resisted its adoption.

We favor the peaceful settlement of international differences by arbitration.

We renew our former declaration that the civil service law, placed on the statute books by the republican party, shall be thoroughly and honestly enforced.

Where the election franchise has been unconstitutionally limited we demand that representation in Congress and in the electoral college shall be proportionately reduced.

## FACTS ABOUT WHISKY

**Insurance Figures in Favor of the Abstainers**

In Illinois, where local option prevails and high license is the rule, the average savings bank deposit, per capita, is \$20.75. In Maine, the average per capita of savings is \$103.75. These figures argue that even from a purely monetary standpoint total abstinence pays.

In 1830 Robert Warner, a Quaker, applied to an English life insurance company for a policy, and was told that, as a total abstainer, he would have to pay an extra premium, the company holding that the moderate use of liquor tended to prolong life. Warner did not believe this theory, and started an insurance company of his own. Warner's company divided the risks it took into two classes, one made up of total abstainers and the other of men who drank in moderation. In the thirty-three years from 1830 to 1898 the deaths in the list of moderate drinkers were 97 per cent. of those expected; in the list of total abstainers the deaths were only 70 per cent. of those expected. In other words, the death rate among moderate drinkers was nearly 40 per cent. more than among total abstainers.

During the last thirty years there died in Europe alone of alcoholism a total of 7,500,000 people. That is more people than were killed in all the wars of the Nineteenth century. The authority for these statements is Matti Helenius, a member of the faculty of the University of Denmark, who goes on to show that in Denmark one out of every seven men who die between the ages of thirty-five and fifty-five is a victim of alcoholism.

## A Fraternal Visitation

Milford Lodge, No. 344, F. & A. M., was very agreeably surprised at its stated communication Wednesday evening by the presence of a large number of visiting brethren. It is pleasant to have fraternal communion with members from other lodges, and those who take occasion to pay such visits are usually the most enthusiastic Masons and the best examples of the teachings of the order.

There were present from Kittatony Lodge at Branchville, N. J., W. M. F. L. Johnson and Brethren D. M. Johnson, Wm. Johnson, Jos. Thompson, Edward Thompson, G. W. Van Sickle, S. McCarrick, A. Struble, E. Jones, Jonas Crissman, J. W. McNelle, J. Compton, A. O. Decker, J. A. Westbrook, L. Ike and C. A. Dairymple.

From Port Jervis Lodge, No. 328, H. C. Brinckley, John S. King and John A. Kadel; from Hawley, No. 395, Chas. S. Houck; from Musconetcong, No. 151, Stanhope, N. J., S. S. Mills; from Mansfield, No. 86, Washington, N. J., J. S. Davidson and from John Hodge, No. 815, Naples, N. Y., Rev. E. M. Smead. Milford Lodge was also well represented and the occasion was one which will remain a bright memory for all present.

## Bryan on Parker

Hon. W. J. Bryan in a speech this week at Cooper Union before an immense audience gave Judge Parker the benefit of all the objections to his candidacy that his fertile brain could conceive and his nimble tongue express. He charged that Judge Parker was the tool of monopolists and a stranger to the teachings of pure democracy and that many of his delegates had been secured by other than fair means. Bryan's idea of Parker is worse than of the average republican. The democrats must have New York state in their business of electing their President and if the crowd to hear Bryan is any expression of democratic sentiment it would seem there is considerable disaffection.

## Don't Throw Paper on the Streets

It is wicked to tear up envelopes or other waste paper and scatter the bits in the street. In well-governed German cities the person that commits this nuisance is either obliged carefully to pick up every piece of the offending paper or he is invited to accompany a police constable to the police court, where a magistrate promptly assesses the proper fine.—Indianapolis News.

The week-day excursion over the Erie Wednesday was well patronized from this section. A number from town availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the city, and quite a crowd from the country went on the trip. The day was fine and cool and the excursion was a most enjoyable affair.

## THE RAMBLER'S PICKINGS

No principal for our schools yet. John Gourlay is home for the summer.

A false alarm called our fire department out Wednesday afternoon.

A number from town took in Wednesday's excursion to New York.

Rumor has it chicken thieves are about again. Load up the old gun.

Charles Zimmerman and family of New York will spend the summer at the Fancher House.

George Dautman has again become a resident of this town. Rumor has it, he has his eye on a county office.

The nearest place to go where they will celebrate July 4th is Hainesville. Any one going there is sure of a good time.

Our ball players appear to have a game with some outside team every week. But so far the victories all seem to go out of town.

Reckless driving will not be tolerated here any more. A couple of women came to grief Monday evening. Their horse was taken care of.

The low water in the Delaware is causing those who have to cross the Matamoras ferries considerable annoyance. Why not drive the river? It has been done.

Walter Dingman is nursing a fractured ankle, Henry Malines a sprained ankle, Lon Kline a sprained knee, Leon Barlow carries a piece of a needle in his foot.

There are some people who can not keep their hands off of other peoples things. What is meaner than to have some one come along the sidewalk and break off a pretty flower belonging to somebody else.

Hardly a day passes now but what some stranger comes to town looking for a cottage to occupy for the summer. If the demand continues, and there is no reason to think otherwise, some of our real estate owners will have to go to building.

The republican party has as was a foregone conclusion renominated Theodore Roosevelt for President. Who will get the Democratic nomination is at present in doubt. But to judge from the utterances of the twice overwhelmingly defeated candidate, Wm. J. Bryan, there is not a democrat in the country entitled to the nomination only W. J. Bryan. If he should get it, there would be no use of holding an election. Free silver is as dead as a door nail.

## Pertinent Paragraphs

The Liberty bell has arrived at the St. Louis Exposition. The crack is in good condition.

It seems that Kansas can have a destructive spring flood and still cry for labor to harvest one of the biggest crops on record.

It is thought that if bandits should rush in and take Judge Parker off to the mountains, he might be induced to say something.

It seems that the Kansas City Labor unions are talking about abolishing the union label. The Colorado plan is to abolish the union.

The democratic Brooklyn Eagle admits that it looks like another republican year. Eyes less piercing than the eagle's can see this.

The Kentucky newspapers have indignantly branded as a malleous coward the statement that a Kentucky man died from the bite of a rattlesnake.

Missouri has prohibited bull fighting but it is openly boasted that the democratic national convention will be promptly pulled off in spite of any old state laws.

Mr. Cleveland's ultimatum that his refusal is final comes hot upon the heels of the fact that not a single state has yet elected a delegate for him. A good story of a duck hunt would have been more timely.

After years of arid excoriations and scathing vituperation Colonel Waterston of the Courier Journal says, simply, that while Cleveland is impossible, yet if he is nominated, he, the colonel, will support him. To what are northern colonels coming?

The Chicago physician who declares that there is no such thing as "brain fog" probably devotes himself to medical literature and has not been reading the distressing democratic editorial concoctions and gymnastics over issues and candidates.

The St. Petersburg report to the effect that there is a secret understanding under which the United States has consented to cede the Philippine Islands to Japan is believed to be founded on fact except so far as relates to Japan, the Philippines and the United States.