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What Some of Our Contemporaries Had to Say of Our Christmas Edition.

The Christmas number of the WATCHMAN has called forth not only a great number of personal and highly flattering comments, but many of our contemporaries have recognized in it something of real merit.

If there is a rural weekly newspaper in Pennsylvania that can eclipse the Xmas edition of the Democratic Watchman, issued last week, it is not on our exchange.

The handsomest holiday newspaper which has thus far reached this office this year or any other year is the Christmas number of the Bellefonte Watchman for last week.

The Christmas edition of the Bellefonte Watchman, issued last week, was one of the prettiest we have ever seen issued from an inland printing office.

We have had many letters of congratulation on the artistic beauty and literary merits of the Christmas edition of the WATCHMAN and while it will be impossible to acknowledge them all, we trust that those who were so kind as to express their appreciation will accept our sincere thanks.

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The Frye-Hanna plea for the ship subsidy scheme is incomplete. For instance, it omits these points:

- First—Does the bill compel more American sailors at better wages?
It does not. On the contrary, the ship-owners may pocket the subsidy and hire foreign seamen at the lowest wages.
Second—Does the bill assure larger American cargoes?
It does not. On the contrary, it makes it possible for shipowners to sail with empty vessels and still get the subsidy.
Third—Does the bill secure faster ships?
It does not. On the contrary, it makes fast trips of no consequence.
Fourth—Does the bill arrange for more mails?
It does not. On the contrary, it leaves the foreign mails as now, to be carried by the fast British and German ships.
Fifth—Does the bill provide for more ships?
It does not. On the contrary, it makes it to the interest of the existing companies to combine, crush competition and divide the subsidy among as few ships and ship-owners as possible.

What then, does the bill promise? Large bonuses to be added to the dividends of steamship companies which are at present earning good profits without subsidies.

That is all. But in the name of Hanna and McKinley and the campaign chest, isn't that enough?

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DeWet Loose Once More. With Part of His Force He Breaks Through British Cordons. British Losses for a Week. This Represents the Result of the Latest Reported Activity Among the Boers in Parts of South Africa.

MASERU, Basutoland, Dec. 17.—Gen. DeWet and part of his force, after severe fighting, broke through the British cordon at Thaba Nchu. Other bodies of Boers, attempting to get north, were repulsed.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Evening Standard says that fighting began at dawn today between the British and 1,500 Boers who were stopped recently from going south. They were surrounded at Orange river, and after several hours fighting were defeated, with very heavy losses.

The Boers reported defeated are believed to be part of DeWet's commando. The Boer general had 3,000 men with him when he made the break for freedom at Thaba N'Chu, and, according to the dispatches, though he escaped, part of his forces were not so fortunate.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—British casualties, representing the loss of nearly 1,000 men during the week, represent the latest revival of Boer activity in South Africa. Dispatches received from Kitchener bring news hitherto unreported of heavy losses in both the Transvaal and the Orange river colony, including the capture of several hundred prisoners as the result of a running fight with General DeWet and engagements with General Botha's troops.

The defeat of General Clements at Magaliesberg is described as follows, in a dispatch to the Standard from Rietfontein: The scene of the engagement was a horse-shoe-shaped depression. The Northumberland lands occupied the center. Gen. Clements's camp was pitched 1,000 yards lower down at the eastern point of the horse-shoe, and Colonel Legge's camp was about 800 yards distant.

General Delarey's 1,000 men, against whom Clements had fought repeated actions, were suddenly, unknown to Gen. Clements, reinforced by 3,000 men from Warm Baths, under Commandant Byers. At daybreak Colonel Legge's picket deserted what seemed a fresh force of British troops. The strangers were challenged. They replied with a volley revealing 400 Boers in khaki. The firing became heavy and the noise aroused Colonel Legge's troops, who arrived just in time to save the outposts from capture.

A furious engagement ensued. Artillery was brought up and it compelled the Boers to retire. Colonel Legge followed up the withdrawal and was shot dead by a bullet through his head. Gen. Clements and his staff soon arrived. The Boers retreated severely, but Gen. Clements appears to have a charmed life.

While mounted men were driving the enemy back along a slope covered thickly with Boer dead, a deafening rifle fire suddenly broke on the plateau above. The signaller, heliographed by the Northumberlanders, was being attacked. Gen. Clements, convinced that they would easily hold their own, disposed of the remainder of his forces on the flanks and rear of his two camps.

At 4:40 a. m. a heliograph from the western peak announced that the Boers were about to overwhelm the fusiliers. Gen. Clements was unable to send the adequate help, but dispatched yeomanry to climb the precipitous hillside and create a diversion. Before the yeomanry could come into action the Boers had overpowered the Northumberlanders and were in possession of the entire horse-shoe, firing down on the yeomanry, entangled in the bushes and boulders.

The Northumberlanders made a magnificent defense so long as their ammunition lasted. According to the Boer accounts many even when resistance was hopeless died fighting.

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The Grangers Had a Great Meeting. Adjourned at Lock Haven Last Friday, but Selected a Place for Next Year's Meeting. Officers Elected and Resolutions Passed.

The Pennsylvania State Grange finished its business at noon last Friday adjourned until next year. Upon the executive committee will devolve the duty of selecting a place for meeting next year. The only place mentioned has been Johnstown. As Lock Haven has had the Grange twice in succession, it is not likely that it will be chosen for next year's meeting.

While there was a marked Quay and anti-Quay feeling under the surface, it was not allowed to crop out into the open. The vote for W. F. Hill, for Worthy Master, was a surprising endorsement of that gentleman's course in the Grange. Out of 400 votes cast, only 27 were scattered complacently for other candidates. This strong endorsement is viewed with great favor by the friends of Mr. Hill.

TABLED REPORT. The grievance committee presented a report on G. C. Hutchinson's frantic appeal for a vindication. The committee made a report on the matter, but the Grange took no other action than to table the report. By this action the Grange sustained the action of Worthy Master Hill in removing Hutchinson from the legislative committee.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON. The election of officers in the State Grange resulted as follows: Worthy master, W. F. Hill, of Westford; lecturer, M. C. Cornell, Altus; overseer, A. C. Barrett, New Milford; steward, H. M. Gooderman, Patton; assistant steward, H. H. Pratt, Oceanville; chaplain, Rev. W. H. Clippman, Finleyville; treasurer, S. E. Nivin, Landenberg; secretary, J. T. Allman, Phoenix; gatekeeper, W. Chase, Fall Brook; Ceres, Mrs. V. B. Holiday, Oceanville; Pomona, Mrs. L. A. Thayer, Atlantic; Flora, Miss Florence Rhone, Centre Hall; L. A. S., Mrs. Mary E. Bloom, Lock Haven; member executive committee, G. W. Oster, Osterburg; member finance committee, J. T. Patton, Warrior's Mark.

WANT RABBIT KILLING LAW REPEALED. The agricultural committee reported in favor of direct tax legislation, equalization of taxation and reduction of the legal rate of interest in the State to five per cent., and that efforts be made to defeat the proposed Kirk road bill.

The credential committee reported that 250 Granges were represented and that delegates from fifty-two counties were in attendance. A resolution, offered by the agriculture committee, that the legislative committee endeavor to secure a large appropriation for conducting and maintaining farmer's institutes throughout the state was adopted.

The committee on constitution and by-laws reported. The committee on flags, for State, Pomona and subordinate Granges reported that they had examined the designs presented by Pomona Grange No. 13, Centre county, and recommended them. The designs were exhibited at the State Grange and were adopted.

The committee on the good of the order reported against partisan and sectarian views being introduced at Grange meetings. THE GRANGERS' ATTITUDE. Before adjournment the committee on resolutions presented the report, which was unanimously adopted.

It contained unalterable opposition to the sale of Oleo in the State, a protest against the present management of the State Department of Agriculture, and a demand for its removal, the enforcement of the pure food laws, a plea for a more equitable tax burden and an endorsement of the proposition to have United States Senators elected by a direct vote of the people.

Will Continue The Fight. Representatives of Religious Bodies Oppose the Can-teen.

WASHINGTON, December 19.—A conference of church and temperance bodies favoring the anti-canteen section of the army bill was held here to-day.

The bodies represented by delegates or communications were the permanent committees of temperance in the Presbyterian church in the United States, the Methodist Episcopal church, the Evangelical Lutheran church, the Disciples of Christ, the Universalist church, the Friends, the national Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the national non-partisan Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the national division of the Sons of Temperance of America. Representatives of the Baptist and Congregational churches and Independent Orders of Good Templers participated as individuals.

Rev. E. C. Dinwiddie, legislative superintendent of the anti-Saloon League, after the meeting said: "The conference held to-day indicated that the bodies represented, having a constituency of about 8,000,000, will not be content with any compromise such as has been represented by the sub-committee of the senate committee on military affairs but will insist on the anti-saloon provision as it passed the House."

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ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—Mr. and Mrs. John M. Dale entertained a party of congenial friends at the Nittany Country Club on Wednesday, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Fenlon.

GEN. L. POTTER POST OFFICERS.—At the election of officers in Post 261, Milesburg, the last meeting night, the following were elected for the ensuing year: Col. Austin Curtin past commander, (re-elected); William Emblinizer S. V. commander (advanced from J. V. C.); Samuel H. Orris J. V. commander; Thomas Wilson, chaplain, (re-elected); Joseph A. Green, quartermaster; J. G. McKinley, officer of the day, (re-elected); Simon Parsons, surgeon, (re-elected); Henry McMullen, officer of the guard; George F. Derr, trustee; for three years (re-elected); Alfred S. Smith, delegate to Dept. encampment; Jas. McMullen, alternate.

The installation of the newly elected officers will take place in the post room in Milesburg on the first Saturday night in Jan. 1901. A camp fire of some interest will follow the exercises. A small admission fee will be asked, the proceeds of which will be paid over to the monument fund.

The Public School Teachers of the County in Institute Sessions.

Hundreds of the County Educators Gather in the Court House for a Week of Work—Trouble in Getting Started but Finally Successful—Able Instructors and Profitable Sessions.

Pursuant to the call of County Superintendent C. L. Gramley most all of the public school teachers in Centre county assembled in Bellefonte on Monday for the fifty-fourth annual session of institute.

But after they had gathered from the four corners of the little earth that has produced Governors, United States Senators, Judges and other statesmen galore they proved a veritable white elephant on the hands of even such a resourceful man as the County Superintendent.

He had invited them here, thinking that the court house would be available for use for their work, but Judge Bell was holding sway in the temple of justice, with that record breaking land case, and the opera house could not be secured, because there was a show there that night and the teachers were truly out in the cold.

They enjoyed the little suspense. It gave them time to get comfortably located at hotel or boarding house and then to take a look around the shops. Beside, its made them all the keener to take up the work on Tuesday morning, when access was had to the court house.

MONDAY'S PROGRAM. Nothing of real importance was accomplished on Monday. There was an impromptu session held in the opera house during the afternoon. It wasn't long, just long enough for about half the teachers to catch a little cold.

The organization of the institute is as follows: C. L. Gramley, president; vice presidents, H. C. Rothrock, Alice K. Dorworth; recording secretary, M. E. Heberling; assistant secretary, D. K. Keller; enrolling secretary, T. A. Anman; doorkeepers, W. E. Lumbert and Harry Craun; ticket agent, J. C. Morris, and it makes a very efficient and capable regime.

The music in charge of Prof. Philip H. Meyer, with Miss Helen Bartholomew, of Centre Hall, as accompanist. They are doing everything possible to add to the sessions by making the music as harmonious and pleasing as is possible under the circumstances.

In addition to this Prof. Meyer keeps constantly dropping little suggestions that will prove helpful to the teachers in conducting the singing exercises in their respective schools. Of course there is no time for nor attempt at much instruction in music, but there are little points, nevertheless, that the alert teachers are able to pick up that give them a fair idea of the rudiments.

THE TROUBLE OVER, THE INSTITUTE IN THE COURT HOUSE. The land case having finally gone to the jury for disposition on Monday night Judge Bell "pulled up stakes" and turned his quarters over to the teachers, so that Tuesday morning they were at home once more when they found themselves seated in comfortable, well lighted, well ventilated, clean court room.

After Sup't. Gramley had called the morning session to order Rev. Thos. Levan Bickel, pastor of the Reformed church, invoked the blessing of God on the gathering, and prayed that the teachers might, everyone, have a full appreciation of the position they hold in the making of the character of men and women. Several musical selections were rendered and then the real work began.

The first speaker of the morning was Prof. C. C. Ellis, of Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa., who gave an excellent talk on "Language." He is a young man but a bright and entertaining talker. Many interesting thoughts could be gleaned from his address.

The other speaker of the morning was Dr. H. R. Pattengill, ex-state Superintendent of Public Instruction of Michigan, and editor of the Michigan School Moderator and Timely Topics. He established himself at once as a favorite of the institute, by giving a very helpful talk on "The Five Powers," necessary to a successful teacher of a district school.

His address was interspersed with jokes and witty sayings that kept his audience in a constant good humor. The afternoon session was called at 1:30. After the musical numbers Dr. Pattengill continued his talk of the morning.

At the close of his very interesting remarks, Prof. G. C. Watson, of State College, was introduced and gave a thirty minute talk on "Nature Studies in Plant Growth." The professor has made a special study of this subject and his address was both interesting and helpful. Short talks on the same subject were then given by Dr. Pattengill and Prof. Ellis.

After the calling of the roll the following committees were announced and requested to meet with the County Superintendent after the adjournment of institute.

Election—D. Paul Fortney, N. N. Hartswick, W. B. Haines.

A GREAT DAY YESTERDAY. Not since the days of the County Centennial have Bellefonte streets been crowded as they were yesterday.

There were many who came merely to attend institute, others came to shop, several hundred school directors were here and then with the townspeople who turned out to lend to the Holiday appearance of the throng there was interest and activity on all sides.

The court house was jammed with people at both morning and afternoon sessions. The lobby of the building and the great porch made a rendezvous for young people all day long so that there was merriment everywhere.

At the morning session Prof. L. F. Lybarger, of Philadelphia, who was already popular in Centre county by reason of a great speech made at Millheim in the fall, was the first talker. He carried the immense audience with him in a most interesting discussion of general topics of interest to teachers. Prof. Ellis followed and Dr. Pattengill concluded the morning session with another of his excellent talks, that are punctuated frequently with clever bits of wit.

Dr. Pattengill opened the afternoon session and took up the time until Prof. G. C. Watson, of State College, was introduced. He had been specially delegated to talk on the subject "Should There be a Course of Nature Study in the Public Schools," which was introduced by Prof. J. P. Jackson, of State College. All of the directors were in attendance and Prof. Watson appealed to them to take up the matter, not as a regular text book branch, but merely by use of the pamphlets published, from which teachers could prepare interesting and helpful little talks for their scholars to be given at times when a change in the regular routine of school work would prove acceptable.

That the subject made a favorable impression was evidenced by the attentive hearing Prof. Watson received. He was ably seconded by Prof. Lybarger, who was the last speaker of the afternoon.

The Mozart Symphony Club, of New York, was the attraction for last night and appeared before a packed house, giving general satisfaction.

THE DIRECTOR'S MEETING. The meeting of the Directors Association was held in the Y. M. C. A. building and was called to order at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by president Jos. L. Neff, who made an appropriate address. The minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved after which Senator Heinle moved that a committee on nominations for officers for the ensuing year be appointed by the chair. President Neff then named W. C. Heinle, Henry Esters, of College Twp., and C. T. Fryberger, of Philipsburg.

Why is the Compulsory School Law not enforced in many of the Rural School Districts? was the subject of a very interesting paper read by Mr. E. L. Black, of Ferguson Twp. Mr. Black took the ground that the law is a good one, but ascribed its non-enforcement in most districts to a division of sentiment among the directors, some of whom have spread the idea among parents that the law is unconstitutional thereby causing many to drop out.

Hon. John T. McCormick, Supt., Gramley and Sen. W. C. Heinle discussed Mr. Black's paper, agreeing that his points were well taken.

John A. Daley, of Curtin Twp., read a paper on the same subject, but he took the ground that the law is a hardship, in many instances where parents are really too poor to send their children, properly clad, to school. W. A. Murray Esq., of Harris, rather sided with Mr. Daley and the discussion was becoming very interesting when the dinner hour arrived and adjournment was made to meet in the court house in the afternoon, a full report of which meeting is given in the institute proceedings above.

Prior to the adjournment the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, S. W. Smith, of Centre Hall; vice presidents, C. W. Atherton, Philipsburg, F. L. Black, Pine Grove Mills; secretary and treasurer, H. C. Quigley, Bellefonte.

Executive committee, Jos. L. Neff, Mt. Eagle, R. M. Kaup, Bellefonte; H. C. Rice, Philipsburg; U. S. Shafer, Madisonburg, and Jacob Dunkle, Hulsburgsburg.

Delegates to State Association, D. F. Fortney, Bellefonte; Dr. W. L. Irwin, Juniata; W. H. Neff, Howard; J. H. Wyle, Aaronsburg and Sup't. Gramley.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$108.69 in hand.

BARTGES—REIBER.—W. Alfred Reiber, of Colyer, who is here attending institute, was united in marriage, Wednesday evening, to Miss Della Anne Bartges, daughter of David L. Bartges, former proprietor of the Centre Hall hotel. The fair bride came over from Centre Hall on the afternoon train and was met by Mr. Reiber who accompanied her to the home of his aunt, Mrs. James Weigley, on West High street. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Holloway on the Lutheran parsonage, on Linn street, at 6 o'clock, which was followed by a supper and reception given by the groom's aunt at her home.

Cards are out announcing the approaching marriage of H. N. Meyer and Miss Carry Condo, both of Penn Hall. It will be celebrated at the home of the bride-elect's father, J. C. Condo, the well known carriage builder, at 11:30 a. m. on New Year's day. H. F. McManaway will be the groom's best man and Miss E. Blanche Condo, a sister of the bride to be, will be her maid. Rev. F. W. Brown will officiate. A dinner and reception will follow the ceremony and the couple will depart on an afternoon train for a short honeymoon tour.

Henry Walkey, of Logan street, is still nursing the hand that has had him laid up for the past three weeks. He is troubled with catarrh in it and notwithstanding frequent lancing and most careful treatment it doesn't show much of a disposition to get well. Mr. Walkey hasn't much pain from it any more, but the swelling still remains.

Leading the events of social interest this week was the charming dinner given last night by Col. and Mrs. W. F. Reeder at their home on Allegheny street. It was the second of the series they have arranged for during the season. Covers were laid for fourteen and all of the appointments were perfect.