

GRAY MEER, Editor. Terms of Subscription:—Until further notice this paper will be furnished to subscribers at the following rates: Paid strictly in advance \$1.00, Paid before expiration of year 1.50, Cash after expiration of year 2.00

Democratic State Ticket.

For State Treasurer JOHN G. HARMAN, of Columbia county. Democratic County Ticket. For Prothonotary ARTHUR B. KIMPOFF, of Bellefonte. For District Attorney WILLIAM G. RUNKLE, of Bellefonte. For County Surveyor J. HENRY WETZEL, of Bellefonte.

A Bid for the Hastings Claim.

For several weeks the WATCHMAN has been offering for sale a claim against the estate of the late D. H. HASTINGS. It amounts to \$123 46 made up of such-and-such items as a lawyer, politician and ordinary man would contract at a printing office, including an item of \$38.32 for subscription to this paper which was regularly delivered to his home in Bellefonte and forwarded to him in Harrisburg when he became the Governor of this Commonwealth. The estate, though reputed to be one of the richest in this community, and comprising only the members of the late Governor's family, have plead the statute of limitations on the bill so that legally the claim doesn't amount to much. Morally it would seem to honest people to be worth its face. Having exhausted all the means at our command to have the claim paid we are offering it to the highest bidder.

Already we have received a number of bids ranging from thirty cents to six dollars, but none of them have promised as much as the following offer of a trustee from a Gregg Twp. subscriber. Just what we would do with a blind dog, lame on all fours, has us guessing about as much as this claim has had us so it looks like a fair exchange from that point of view. But the past record of the dog having undoubtedly been honorable we fear its owner has forgotten his debt of gratitude to it and consequently cannot make the trade.

Looking at it in this light we would soon think of stealing a penny from a blind beggar's hat as swapping this claim on our Gregg township friend's limping dog. His offer follows:

SPRING MILLS, PA., Sept. 2nd, 1907. WATCHMAN, Bellefonte, Pa. My Dear Sir:—As I am probably one of the oldest readers of the WATCHMAN, in our township, and always admired it for its straight cut and reliable news and its sound political principles, when I saw the claim for sale I made a special effort to secure a deal for you. As you say "any old thing" will do, I verily believe that I struck the right party. There is a neighbor of mine who is collecting some relics in the way of a warning to his boys as to what class of people should not be given credit. He has quite a list already including Penny and the State Capitol Graters. As my neighbor had no grab at Harrisburg, he is a little short in cash, but he has a black dog which is eleven years young, and the owner says that the dog used to do the barking if he, (the farmer), would do the running. But it is also due to you to state that the dog's eyes are in a bad condition. He can not see the feed you put down to him unless you put it up to his mouth; the dog is also lame on all fours. He would not think of parting with the pup were it not for the value he puts on the relic. If you will accept the offer you answer by Bell phone or the next WATCHMAN. GREGG TOWNSHIP SUBSCRIBER.

Concerning the State College.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record is very enthusiastic over the magnificent proposition of Mr. CHARLES M. SCHWAB to "give one million dollars to the State College for the establishment of an engineering department. It will enable the college at some future time," continues our esteemed contemporary, "to cover the whole industrial field, mechanical as well as industrial." Warming to the subject the Record adds, "Mr. SCHWAB could hardly devote his money to a more laudable or beneficial purpose," and the State College "is doing a great work in the instruction of young men how to get from the lands they till the largest net result through a practical and scientific knowledge of soils and seeds."

Every word uttered by our esteemed contemporary is literally true. The State College has made vast strides forward in its useful work for the people of Pennsylvania and progressive citizens of the State are justly proud of its achievements. The esteemed Record is not exactly informed as to the scope of this work because it has graduates from its civil and electrical engineering schools occupying distinguished positions in the practical and scientific world in every State of the American Union and in most of the nations of the world. But it needs money to further develop its possibilities in these directions and the fulfillment of the proposition of Mr. SCHWAB would compass the result.

But why should this magnificent educational establishment depend upon the benevolence of any individual to perfect its equipment for the great work to which it aspires. It is the duty of the State to appropriate the necessary funds. The State would have done this, probably, during the last session of the Legislature if JOHN S. SREATZ, as chairman of the House committee on appropriations, had not interposed to prevent it. The Western Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania, a strictly private institution of Pittsburg, which aspires to become a competitor of the State College, asked for a large appropriation, and because Allegheny county had more votes in the Republican State convention than Centre, SREATZ favored that institution.

The result was that the Legislature appropriated \$349,000 to that essentially private institution and only \$339,000 to the magnificent State institution to which our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary refers. The Pittsburg institution is absolutely without facilities for the work it desires to undertake. The construction of buildings and purchase of apparatus must necessarily come out of the money appropriated and the profits of the enterprise go to the owners of the concern. The State College, on the other hand, is a State institution and its achievements as well as its gains go to the honor and profit of the State. But SREATZ was working for himself rather than for the honor of Pennsylvania.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

MOYER-BRAY.—It is no unusual thing for young men from other portions of the State to come to Centre county to get their life partner while on rare occasions Centre county men go away from home for the same purpose, and one of the latest of these was H. Bruce Moyer, of Centre Mills, but formerly of this county, who on Wednesday last week was married to Miss Carolyn Bray, of Newport township, Luzerne county. The wedding was quite a fashionable affair and took place in the Newport Centre church. Rev. George Warburton performed the ceremony and the attendants were Miss Ida Bray, as maid of honor; Miss Elizabeth Roman, of Alden, and Miss Jennie Noble, of Wilkesbarre, as bridesmaids, and Oscar Young, of Wanamie, best man. The bride is an accomplished young lady, a professional nurse who graduated from the Wilkesbarre hospital training school seven years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer will make their home at Centre Mills.

SCHENCK-WINSLOW.—About one hundred and fifty guests were present at the home of Mrs. Levia Winslow, of Blanchard, last Wednesday evening, to witness the marriage of her daughter, Miss Laura, to Foster Schenck, son of William Schenck, of Liberty township. The ceremony took place at five o'clock in the evening and was performed by Rev. H. J. Dudley, of the Disciple church. Harry and Miss Nellie Winslow, brother and sister of the bride, attended the young couple, while Miss Levia Heverley, of Johnsonburg, played the wedding march. Following the ceremony and inspection of the many valuable presents received by the bride, a delicious wedding dinner was served after which Mr. and Mrs. Schenck left for a honeymoon trip to eastern cities.

HARDENBERG-FOSTER.—A romantic little wedding on Wednesday was that of Dr. John Hardenberg, of Millheim, and Miss Viola G. Foster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Foster, of Philadelphia. The doctor first met his bride while he was a student at the University of Pennsylvania and when they decided to get married they concluded to do so without any fuss or feathers, consequently on Wednesday they went over to New York and were married in the "Little Church Around the Corner," with only the necessary witnesses as an audience. Dr. and Mrs. Hardenberg will make their home in Millheim where the former is a rising young physician.

MERSINGER-DASHEN.—On Wednesday evening of last week the home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Dashen, of Potters Mills, was the scene of a pretty wedding, when their daughter, Miss Bessie Dashen, was united in marriage to Eddie Mersinger. The ceremony took place at six o'clock and was performed by Rev. J. M. Reaick in the presence of a large number of friends. The bridegroom, who was born and raised near Potters Mills, spent the past three or four years in South Dakota, but last spring sold his property there and returned east and for the present will make Potter township his home.

STOVER-MILLER.—On Wednesday of this week Joel B. Stover and Miss Ethel C. Miller, of Habelsburg, were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Miller, Rev. H. I. Crow performing the ceremony. Both young people are quite well known in Nittany valley as both have for several years been among Centre county's best school teachers, while the bride was for several years the Habelsburg correspondent of the WATCHMAN, hence we tender our sincerest congratulations.

WEAVER-BENNETT.—A quiet wedding was celebrated at the home of George R. Williams, at Port Matilda, at noon on Tuesday, when Frank Weaver, son of Mrs. Thomas Weaver, and Miss Leah Mabel Bennett, were united in marriage. Rev. G. A. Williams performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver will go to housekeeping in Blandburg where the bridegroom is employed.

RENWICK-FULTON.—Matthew Renwick and Miss Nellie Fulton, both of Phillipsburg, went to Hollidaysburg on Monday where they were married by justice of the peace Mr. Calvin Lewis.

Last Friday M. S. Fiedler, executor of the Jacob Reed estate, sold two farms and a tract of timberland in Haines township for \$20,600. The old Daniel Reed farm was sold to the Meyer brothers for \$16,000; the farm adjoining it was sold to Jacob Harter for \$3,400, while the timber land was sold to Jacob Everett for \$1,900.

MILLER.—Mrs. Catharine A. Mull Miller, probably one of the best known and most beloved women of Phillipsburg, died last Friday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. K. White, wife of Dr. White, as a result of a complication of diseases with which she had been ailing for three or four months.

Deceased was a daughter of Aaron and Sarah Mull, deceased, and was born at Sinking Springs, near Reading, November 11th, 1842, hence was almost sixty-five years of age. The Mull family were among the pioneer settlers of Berks county, as well as most widely known. Mr. Mull being a member of the electoral college which elected Lincoln for the presidency. When quite a young woman Miss Mull was united in marriage to George Miller, of Pine Grove and there the family lived for many years. Mr. Miller died about thirty years ago and some fifteen or more years ago Mrs. Miller went to Phillipsburg and has since that time made her home with her daughter.

She was a devout member of the Methodist church and her daily life was the ideal of womanly Christian fortitude and forbearance. Surviving her are one son and a daughter, S. M. Mull and Mrs. F. K. White, both of Phillipsburg; she also leaves three sisters and one brother, namely: Mrs. C. N. Seidle, Mrs. Annie V. Jones and Miss Margaret Mall, of Lebanon, and Prof. George F. Mall, of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster. The funeral was held on Tuesday, the remains being taken to Pine Grove for interment beside those of her husband.

MARKLE.—After an illness of less than two weeks Lewis Markle died in the Bellefonte hospital, last Saturday evening, of pneumonia, the result of over-exertion. Deceased was a son of Samuel Markle and was born at the family homestead at Pine Grove Mills, September 12th, 1872, thus being almost thirty five years of age. Since growing to manhood he has followed the occupation of a farmer and it was while working in the harvest field that he became overheated, which finally resulted in his death. Surviving him are the following brothers and sisters: William, of Harrisburg; John, of Pine Grove Mills; Mrs. Baker, of Nittany; Mrs. Tillman, Daniel, Nathau and Wallace, of Bellefonte. From the hospital the body was taken to the home of deceased's brother Daniel, on east High street, from where the funeral was held at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The Bellefonte Tent, Knights of the Maccabees, of which he was a member, had charge of the funeral while Rev. Barry, of the Lutheran church, officiated at the services. Interment was made in the Union cemetery.

WEAVER.—Mrs. Nancy Weaver died at the home of her son, Samuel Weaver, at Lemont, on Tuesday morning, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy with which she was stricken on Saturday. Deceased was eighty-four years of age and was a native of Huntingdon county though she had lived in Centre county ever since her marriage in 1847. Her husband preceded her to the grave three years ago but surviving her are the following children: Jerry, of Altoona; Harry and Ella, of Jersey Shore; Alice, of Pittsburg; Wesley, George and Sarah, of Dix Station; Annie, of Tyrone, and Samuel, of Lemont. The funeral was held yesterday, the remains being taken to Dix Station for interment.

SMITH.—George W. Smith, an old veteran of the Civil war, died at his home at Gardner's Mills, Blair county, on Tuesday morning, of pneumonia, after being ill for several months. Deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Smith, and was born in Centre county, though most of his life was spent at Gardner's Mills, where he was in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad company. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Elizabeth Harpster, also of Centre county, and his second was Mrs. Minnie Parks. The latter survives with her one son and four children by his first wife. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon, interment being made in the Asbury cemetery.

HUBLER.—Mrs. Nora Hubler, daughter of James Hubler, died at her home at Pine Hall on Monday, after two week's illness with pneumonia. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Osman and was thirty-four years of age. She was a member of the Lutheran church, a devout Christian woman and one who enjoyed the friendship of all who knew her. Surviving her are her husband and one little daughter, her parents, three sisters and a brother. The funeral was held on Wednesday, Rev. R. H. Bergstresser officiating at the services and interment being made at Pine Hall.

PIERCE.—After a brief illness Mrs. Alice B. Pierce, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. James Harris, at Allegheny Furnace, on Wednesday last week. She was only twenty-one years of age and was born and raised in Phillipsburg, being a daughter of Mrs. Martha M. Ebbart, of that place, who survives her as well as her husband, her father, who is employed at Winburne, and one brother and three sisters. The remains were taken to Phillipsburg where the funeral was held on Saturday afternoon interment being made in the new cemetery.

BOUGHAMER.—At ten o'clock last Thursday night Mrs. Christina Boughamer died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Anna Lauver, of Greenwood, Blair county, of general infirmities. She was a native of Centre county and was 78 years, 2 months and 9 days old. She is survived by three sons and two daughters. The funeral was held on Sunday, interment being made at Greenwood.

BIDDLE.—The life-work of quite a remarkable woman ended on Sunday morning when Mrs. Annie Meek Biddle, wife of William N. Biddle, died at her home in Phillipsburg after a number of years illness. When she retired on Saturday night she seemed so much brighter and stronger than she had been for months that her family felt encouraged to believe in her speedy and ultimate recovery. But it was only the fitful flicker of the spark of life ere the brittle cord of life was snapped asunder a few hours later.

Deceased was born in Ferguson township, this county, and was the last surviving daughter of William Jay Meek. Her great-grandfather was Captain George Meek, of revolutionary fame. Like her ancestors before her she was a woman of rare attainments and exceptional ability. With her unusual disposition and contented demeanor at all times and under all circumstances she was a woman who not only won but held the admiration and esteem of all who knew her.

Surviving her are her husband, three children and an only brother. The funeral was held at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, interment being made in the Phillipsburg cemetery.

LUSE.—At two o'clock on Tuesday morning Dennis Luse, one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Millheim, died at his home in that place of general infirmities. He was born on July 9th, 1831, thus making his age 76 years, 1 month and 24 days. Surviving him are his wife and the following children: Henry K., of Oregon; James D., of Williamsport; Mrs. Michael Maize, of Baltimore, Md.; John W., of Joliet, Ill.; Mrs. Joseph Herald, of Madison, Conn.; Mrs. Samuel Warren, of Turtle Creek, and Mrs. William Bead, of Sparrows Point, Md. Rev. W. H. Spangler, of this place, will officiate at the funeral which will be held at 10 o'clock this morning, interment to be made in the Millheim Union cemetery.

FRANCIS ARMSTRONG KILLED.—Francis Armstrong, better known in Bellefonte as "Frank," a student in the Bellefonte Academy for the past two or three years and who played end on the Academy football team, was so badly hurt in an automobile accident in Pittsburg, late Saturday night, that he died in the West Penn hospital on Sunday night. Young Armstrong with three companions were riding in a car owned and driven by A. J. Williams. Near the Seventeenth street incline the car struck a wooden "horse" left as a guard over a hole in the Boulevard, and skidded against a telegraph pole, throwing all the occupants out. Williams was the only one not injured.

Armstrong with his two companions were taken to the hospital and it was at first thought that Armstrong's injuries were only superficial, but later he collapsed and died from heart failure, the result of the shock to his system. He was only twenty years old and the son of John H. Armstrong, a former police magistrate. His parents were at Conneaut Lake and did not know of the accident until after their son's death. Armstrong had intended to return to the Academy at the opening of school next week.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—For some time past boxes and barrels at the Coburn station, on the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad, have been broken open and part of the contents stolen. G. W. Radel, the agent in charge, finally determined to put a stop to the pilfering and through his vigilance one of the guilty parties is now in the Centre county jail while it is expected that the arrest of others will follow.

For a week or more Mr. Radel had a guard on watching the depot building and on Saturday evening a young man by the name of Wilbur Wilkinson, who has been living with his sister at Frogtown, was seen carrying a package out of the freight depot and hide it in an adjacent cattle yard. A warrant was sworn out for his arrest and given to constable Kahler. That gentleman went into hiding near where the stolen package was hidden and at about 9:30 o'clock Wilkinson made his appearance and had just gotten the package in his hands when the officer arrested him. The package contained peanut candy. Wilkinson was given a hearing before Squire A. L. Auman when he confessed his guilt and in default of bail was committed to jail.

On Tuesday James McKinley, of Boggs township, was seventy-six years old and in celebration of the event he had a reunion of his children and their families as well as a party of his nearest friends at his home on Sunday. It was a pleasant little gathering, the most enjoyable part of which, for some at least, being the very elaborate dinner served by Mrs. McKinley. Mr. McKinley, by the way, is a veteran of the Civil war, having served for four years as a member of company E, 900th Penna. Vols. He is still hale and hearty and it is hoped may live to enjoy many more birthday celebrations.

Mrs. Mollie Valentine will entertain in about fifty people at the Bash house this evening when seven tables of bridge will form the chief means of amusement. Mrs. Harry Keller has issued invitations for a reception at her home on east Linn street, from three to five o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Miss Ivy Meyers, of Milesburg, a graduate of the Bellefonte High school, class of '07, was brought to the Bellefonte hospital last Friday for an operation for appendicitis. She is now getting along all right.

CRUST FAMILY REUNION.—The first annual reunion of the Crust family was held at Fern on Saturday. Close to one hundred people were present and the day was spent very pleasantly. A good dinner was served after which there were a few addresses and it was the general desire of those present that a reunion be held the next Saturday in August next year at which a regular organization be made. W. E. Crust, C. E. Lutz, R. R. Crust and W. E. Saxon were appointed a committee to arrange for next year's gathering.

In the original Crust family there were thirteen brothers and sisters and one half-sister. Of this number three brothers, four sisters and the half-sister are living as follows: R. R. Crust, of Falmore; W. E. Crust, of Pleasant Gap; T. L. Crust, of Phillipsburg; Mrs. William Lutz, of Bellefonte; Mrs. John Reed, of Graysville; Mrs. D. H. Hoover, of Altoona; Mrs. Robert Corl, of Pleasant Gap, all of whom were present at the reunion, and Mrs. Mary Ann Love, of Ford City, Pa.

The opening of the school season has brought many mothers to the point of concern about their boy's clothes. It is not so serious a matter as some imagine when we have a store like Fauble's to fall back on. Everything that the lad needs can be had there just a little better than anywhere else and the pleasant part of it is the assortment that affords such a wide range of choice. The Fauble stores are full of fall bargains for men and boys and you should get your share of them.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.—The following marriage licenses were issued the past week by Register Earl C. Tuten.

John M. Bullock and Ella C. Masser, of Bellefonte. Joel B. Stover, of Zion, and Ethel C. Miller, of Harrisburg. Frank Weaver and Leah M. Bennett, Port Matilda. Charles Ebock and Mattie Yoicrac, Bellefonte. Fred C. Miller, Smulton, and Sadie L. Houtz, Madisonburg. Marko Dudo and Elizabeth Rapsakey, Hawk Run.

Pine Grove Mention.

Some of our foremost farmers are done seeding.

L. C. Gates, of Latrobe, is home for a two week's stay.

William Dale, of Pleasant Gap, was in town Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Comeford, of State College, spent Friday in our town.

Our school board are looking about for a teacher for the High school.

Hall Bortoff and family, of Lemont, spent Sunday with friends on the Branch.

You don't want to miss the festival tomorrow evening in the I. O. O. F. hall.

N. T. Krebs and wife are visiting relatives at Milton and Northumberland this week.

Wm. H. Roush is improving his home with a large front porch and a new coat of paint.

John Harshberger has repaired his brick house as well as added a large front porch.

D. Paul Fortney, one of Bellefonte's young legal lights, was a visitor in town over Sunday.

James E. Strausser, of Philadelphia, was greeting old chums here in the beginning of the week.

Pierce Johnstonbaugh is receiving congratulations over the arrival of a nice boy baby at his home.

Alfred Musser, wife and family, of Clearfield, are visiting their many friends down Pennsylvanial at present.

Paul Bailey, wife and children, came over from Alexandria for a few days at the Bailey home just west of town.

Daniel Zones, Mr. Gripp's right-hand man on his farm near Tyrone, was here last Saturday seeing old cronies.

D. A. Grove is off to Pittsburg for a car load of colts that he hopes to have on hand at the Grange picnic at Centre Hall.

John Reed and family with his spanking team of grays passed through town Saturday on a trip down Pennsylvanial for several days.

Rev. R. H. Bergstresser and wife are attending the Millersburg centennial this week and visiting friends and relatives in that section.

Milt Carner and wife and Charles Kustenbender and wife, of Bellefonte, were royally entertained at the James Kustenbender home over Sunday.

The home of Alf Bradford, a former citizen of our town but who several months ago moved to Huntingdon, is under quarantine for diphtheria.

George Meyers returned from Pittsburg last week with seventy-six head of cattle. About thirty head are fit for the block, the balance are stockers.

Bert Musser, John Homan, Charley Meyers and Isaac Campbell left Tuesday morning for the Jamestown exposition. They will be gone ten days.

The Reformed church at Pine Hall is being painted. The lawn social held by the ladies at the home of D. M. Neidigh last Saturday evening was a decided success and \$35 was added to the church improvement fund.

C. E. Sook, of Burnham, spent last week in this section. While here he sold his property at Rock Springs to Jacob Barto, who, after making some needed repairs, will quit the farm and retire in the autumn. His son, LeRoy, will till the broad and fertile acres hereafter.

Prof. M. E. Heberling is spending the last of his vacation near Milton, fishing in the Susquehanna river; and when seen by the WATCHMAN correspondent on Tuesday, he was feeling as big as two or three men, just because he had successfully landed an eleven pound salmon.

Miss Edith Sankey, of Potters Mills, enjoyed a drive through Pennsylvanial all along Monday to join her mother and two aunts from Iowa at the J. G. Hess home, on Main street, where a very pleasant home gathering was held Tuesday when a number of old friends called to extend congratulations to the well known sisters, the Roams.

Grangers Ready for Big Picnic.

The arrangements for the thirty-fourth annual Encampment and Grange Fair, at Grange Park, Centre Hall, Sept. 14th to 20th, are nearly completed, and this promise to be the largest and best fair ever held at the park. It only remains for the people to do their part in filling up the exhibition to make it valuable. Let everyone bring something from the farm, garden, orchard, vineyard and poultry yard, or some handiwork of the needle or brush. A premium will be paid for every meritorious article entered.

Do not overlook the antique department, but help fill up this museum with the valuable things owned by your ancestors and the early settlers of this county.

Do not miss the Encampment as this is the most delightful part of the exposition. Come on Saturday, the 14th, and be present for the religious services on Sunday afternoon. Every day of the encampment will be interesting. The veteran soldiers of the Civil War will hold their reunion on Tuesday, the 17th.

To see the State College and State Agricultural Experiment Station exhibit will be worth all the trip will cost.

Nice clean tents, floored and supplied with seats, tables and seats, can be rented for \$3.00 for the week. Complete police regulations, and ample boarding accommodations.

The Country Store.

In former years it was better known than now, and better appreciated. It was much of the life of every rural hamlet and district. It was and to a certain extent is yet the best school for every countryman who has reached the age of maturity. Our common schools and academies and colleges teach nothing as to government, and if they do, it but reaches minds too young to comprehend. It is the conflict of mind which teaches government, and upon the counter and around the stove of the country store it is best taught. There is always some one there who is in contact with public men and public documents, who is posted. He gives out his knowledge; it is questioned by bright but generous minds, and the truth is reached at last. This leads others to imitate the best informed man, and the result is the education of all the surroundings of the country store in the art of government. The boys are there ready to walk or ride home with their fathers or uncles after a well spent evening. They thus acquire an ambition not dreamed of in any school, and as they grow older they apply it and become certainly useful citizens, and frequently men of distinction.

Daniel Webster extolled the country store as the best school known to New England. There he learned to think, and these thoughts led to the finest language known to our history, and to the most patriotic. Clay gathered his greatness, not in forums but at the country store. So did Henry Wilson, the cobbler of Massachusetts. Alexander Stevens, of Georgia, loved the country store, visited all in his State, there he learned the many idioms peculiar to the South, and this knowledge was the foundation of his great good sense and his masterful popularity. Lincoln found his first inspiration in the country store, and when he rode his lawyer's circuits these were his favorite stopping places, and here he would swap his quaint stories with those from the counter. All of our early rural great men were indebted to the country store for information, next for political support.

It is a pity that the power of the country store was ever impaired. It was the best educator, and is yet. You learn nothing of government and its practical application in the churches, nothing whatever. The minister who touches upon, puts his foot in it because his education was not wholly different lines. The constitution learned by minds too youthful in the schools, are comprehended only by contact and discussion with more mature and broader minds. The colleges are mainly given to other subjects. Schools and colleges aid, but do not ripen.

Half a century ago the country store was to its community the best school. It is yet in rural districts far removed from great cities, and we trust its power may return to all of the counties of Pennsylvania. That great power was first assailed by Local Option legislation passed in 1870. Many of the rural districts voted for Local Option; none of the cities. What was the result? Men who saw in the drastic legislation an infringement of their personal liberty, transferred their custom from country store and hamlet to the cities. There they could buy all the whiskey needed, and cover it in baskets filled with groceries and dry goods.

This was a blow to every country store. It led to lessened receipts, to corresponding loss of stock and supplies. Prior to 1870 everything was kept in the country store, from pins to silks, from pills to paragon. The demand for dry goods ceased, as it did for many things. The Local Option of 1870, the same as that proposed last year was repealed by an indignant people after three years, and the country store did its part in the repeal. There were few salaried or lawless men to aid. Now invention comes to the aid of the country store and the old-fashioned country inn, an institution, which was really a public benefit. The automobile is more than a fad; it has come to stay. It seeks the country road side and patronizes the country inn. It traverses great distances.

Pennsylvania's best days were when the country store flourished, as England's best days and best men were contemporaneous with the wayside inn.

A blow against the country store was attempted in the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1903. The bureau of Pharmacy, which had taxed for its own use all druggists, tried to subject the country store to examination and fees. Cooper, of Delaware county, attacked the Bill in a ten minute speech filled with exposures, and after a winter's lobbying it was defeated by a vote of 182 to 12. This proved the death of Bureau fees. Cooper represented the Country store. Other men will rise to repeal mercantile taxes and foster an institution which should never die.

Chasing the Octopus.

From the Washington Post. Colonel Roosevelt would put the octopus in a felon's cell; Colonel Bryan would have the Government turn octopus. Now, here is your paragon. The octopus must be disposed of. Shall we make it infamous, according to the plan of Colonel Roosevelt, or shall we incorporate it into—graft it upon—the Government, and thus make it respectable, according to the plan of Colonel Bryan? There is the paragon, and we do not see how politics, Republican or Democratic, can evade the Republican Bryanism versus Roosevelt Democracy. This is a puzzle for John Temple Graves, and it might even challenge the ratiocination of Thomas E. Watson himself, if that gentleman can spare time from his wardship of the Democratic Governor of Georgia.