

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 16, 1924.

WHAT TO KNOW IN APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA OLD AGE ASSISTANCE ACT.

I. Who are entitled to old age assistance?

- Persons seventy years or over who are qualified under the following provisions:
 - Who have been citizens of the United States for at least fifteen years.
 - Who have been continuous residents of the State of Pennsylvania for at least fifteen years immediately preceding the date of application; (Continuous residence is not deemed interrupted if the total period of absence from the State does not exceed three years.)
 - Who have resided in Pennsylvania a total of forty years at least five of which have immediately preceded the application.
 - Whose income from all sources is below \$1.00 per day.
 - Whose property valuation does not exceed \$3000. (The property of both husband and wife when living together is figured as if it were that of one person.)

II. Who are not entitled to old age assistance?

- Persons under seventy years of age, or those 70 years of age but who are disqualified by the following provisions:
 - Who have not been citizens of the United States for at least 15 years.
 - Who have not resided continuously in Pennsylvania as required in section (b) and (c) above.
 - Persons who at the date of application are inmates of either prisons, jails, workhouses, insane asylums or any other public reform or correctional institutions.
 - Persons who for six months or more during the fifteen years preceding the date of application have deserted their wives or husbands without just cause and failed to support such of their children as were under age.
 - Persons who within the year preceding the application for assistance have been professional tramps or beggars.
 - Persons who have children or other persons responsible for their support under the laws of the State and able to do so. (Under the laws of Pennsylvania, the husband and wife, the father and mother, the children, grand-parents and grand-children, respectively, of a poor person chargeable to the public, if of sufficient ability are required to relieve and maintain such poor person, as determined by the court.)
 - Persons whose income from all sources exceeds one dollar per day.
 - Persons who have property valued at more than \$3000 including the properties of both husband wife when living together.
 - Persons who have deprived themselves directly or indirectly of any property for the purpose of qualifying for Old Age Assistance.

III. How to apply for Old Age Assistance.

- Applicants who, in view of the above qualifications, feel certain that they are qualified for assistance should procure two application blanks for this purpose from the County Old Age Assistance Board at the court house in the county in which they reside.
- Both blanks should be properly filled out, giving all the information required to the best of their knowledge which information shall be sworn to or affirmed by the applicant and returned to the County Board. (The attention of applicants is called to the fact that no legal advice is necessary in making out the application. If they are unable to write, they may ask some one else to do it for them. There is no necessity for the payment of a lawyer's fee in filling out an application for Old Age Assistance.)
- Upon receipt of application the County Old Age Assistance Board will make investigations and such recommendations as it deems necessary to the Old Age Assistance Commission in Harrisburg, which will then decide finally upon the application and the amount of the assistance to be granted.
- The applicant will be notified of the approval or disapproval of his or her application.
- An applicant whose application for assistance has been refused is not to re-apply for assistance until the expiration of twelve months from the date of the previous application.

Note: In view of the limited appropriation, there will be little money available for the payment of assistance in the immediate future. Applicants are urged, however, to file their applications with their County Board, should they deem themselves qualified under the Act.

Applications should be sent to Mrs. Rebecca C. Tuten, Secretary, County Commissioner's office, Bellefonte, Pa.

A Plea for the Old-fashioned Spelling Bee.

A high school principal in Massachusetts recommends the return of the old-fashioned spelling bee and mental arithmetic test as an aid of the modern student in the development of mental agility. He says that high school boys and girls are notoriously bad spellers and that college students as well frequently disgrace themselves in the matter of spelling. These boys and girls, he points out, have no idea how handicapped they will be in entering business careers by poor spelling and slowness in mathematical calculations.

We hear a great deal about the value of play in education and this teacher thinks that aside from the educational value of the old-fashioned spelling bee, it has much to recommend it as a diverting sort of game. Many readers of an older generation will heartily agree to this.

Annuities Were Issued in Early Babylonian Times

Historically annuities antedate life insurance by far. It is thought that the great development of banking facilities in Assyria and Babylonia must have provided annuities. The first definite mention of them, however, was 40 B. C. in Rome, and is of such a character as to justify a belief that they had been long in use.

In the Middle Ages, kingdoms, municipalities and bankers obtained money by selling annuities for life or terms of years. It is said that England's national existence during the wars of William of Orange was largely maintained through the money obtained by selling annuities. At first the values of such contracts were determined without scientific calculation; after a while the Northampton mortality table was compiled and used as a basis, and later the Carlisle table, but both these bases were far too favorable to the annuitants.

Several British companies took advantage of the very low price at which their government granted annuities and purchased many on the lives of sturdy farmers, but payable to their corporate selves, and thus made large profits. In 1819 an English actuary warned the government that it was losing \$8,000 a month, but he was not heeded until 1827, when another actuary announced that the government was losing \$4,000 a week, and then the sale of annuities was stopped after an estimated total loss of \$25,000,000.—World's Work.

Why Blinks Had to Reach Home on Schedule Time

Promptly as the office clock struck five Blinks with unusual rapidity prepared to start for home.

As he hustled into his overcoat and made for the door his desk mate raised a surprised head. "What!" he said, "in a hurry again tonight? It's six nights now you've rushed home like this and haven't waited for a soda at the old stand. I'm beginning to think, I've offended you, or something like that."

"No," Blinks laughed. "You haven't hurt my sensitive soul, but the fact is this, we've got a cook up at the house now, and while the missus didn't mind my rolling in late the cook won't stay unless I arrive every evening on time."

The Old Almanac

Advertisement was not always the chief function of almanacs. They were first of all, calendars of the days and months, the changes of the moon, and of other astronomical happenings. They supplied a widespread demand for weather lore, its truth or untruth being of minor consideration. To that were added literary and informative features. "Poor Richard" enjoyed wide popularity and was famous by reason of his homely wisdom. Last, but not least, it held high place as the family joke book, the excellence of its witticisms being often proved by their longevity. In many a backwoods pioneer home the annual almanac was the sole literary refuge, taking the place of all other books, and never, perhaps, was any other book or periodical so read, re-read and digested.

Have to Let Himself In

Bridget and Michael had been married barely three months, and already Michael had on two occasions arrived home in the early hours of the morning. This did not suit Bridget, as on each occasion she had to come down to admit him.

Michael was looking forward to spending the evening of this particular day in having a "few sociable ones with the boys," and this Bridget knew. "Now, look here," she said to her husband at the breakfast table, "it was two o'clock the following morning when ye came home the other night a bit since. It was two o'clock the following morning when ye came home last night. But I want to be telling ye that if it's two o'clock in the morning when ye come home tonight—or any other night in the morning—ye'll have to get up and let yourself in!"

Insects Walk on Water

By virtue of their lightness, combined with a peculiar construction of the feet which keeps them from becoming wet, water spiders and a number of other insects are able to walk readily over sheets of water, supported by the surface tension of the latter. This tension acts practically the same as a stretched elastic membrane. It is sufficiently strong for these creatures, but it is practically negligible so far as heavier ones are concerned. So long as the feet and other portions of the bodies of water insects remain perfectly dry they are as safe on the surface of water as they would be on terra firma, but let them once get wet and this same membrane will quickly prove their undoing.—The Pathfinder.

Native African Language

The natives of Africa speak three languages—Negroid, Hottentot-Bushman and Hamitic. The Hamitic language, to which ancient Egyptian belonged, is spoken in northern Africa. The Hottentot-Bushman is spoken by the dwarf and pigmy tribes in the central part of the continent. The remainder of the natives speak what is known as the Negroid tongue. All these overlap one another and it cannot be said that all the tribes of central Africa speak any one language. These three languages represent many dialects and seem to be distinct from all other systems of speech. At least no close relation can be discovered between them and other languages.

RUNVILLE.

E. S. Bennett lost a valuable horse on Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Johnson visited Frank McKinley, who is very ill.

Ted Lucas, of Altoona, called at the home of L. J. Heaton Monday evening.

Glady Walker, of Snow Shoe, is visiting her friend, Miss Beatrice Walker.

Leymone Lucas, of Snow Shoe, is spending a few days with his grandmother, Mrs. Annie Lucas.

Lawrence Poorman, of Williamsport, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Poorman.

Miss Lulu McClincy and brother James, of Williamsport, visited over Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lew Fetzer.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams, Miss McQuillen and Mr. Chase, of Williamsport, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Poorman.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. McClincy and two daughters autoed to Falls Creek, Saturday, where they remained over Sunday with Mrs. McClincy's sister.

Fidelle Rodgers and Mr. Duffy, of Cripple Creek, Colorado, autoed to this place on Saturday and are visiting Mr. Rodgers' mother, Mrs. Alice Rodgers.

The Stork passed over our village Thursday morning and left twins at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fetzer, a boy and a girl, but both died the same day. Mrs. Fetzer is getting along very nicely.

Miss Beatrice Walker entertained her school class on Thursday evening, at her home. Those present were: Helen Kauffman, Eleanor Johnson, Vivian Poorman, Marie Bennett, Grave Kline, Gladys Walker, Jennie Witherite, Katherine Rearick, Eddie Furl, Walter Bennett, Paul Strunk, Melvin Kauffman, Clair Witherite, Mrs. Earl Kauffman and two children, Junior and Bobby, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Walker were also present. After refreshments were served all departed to their homes, reporting a good time.

Back Yards in Belgium.

There are no back yards in Belgium. The type of cottage familiar to Great Britain or the United States is missing in Belgium, for the average employe does not earn, even after some years' service, more than 20,000 francs (\$1,000) annually, and he is obliged to content himself with a flat, as cheap as possible, and near his place of business.

Wooden houses of any sort are a rarity and even stucco construction on metal lath is unknown. Anything like the yard which every American wants around his house is next to

unknown, due to the standardization of house dimensions to high real estate values.

Not Such a Bargain.

Customer: "Can't you match this piece of ribbon?"
Shop Assistant: "No, madam. You may remember that it was one of the matchless bargains we ran last Monday."

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Giving you reasonable prices isn't a hard matter in the clothing business. The difficulty is in supplying splendid tailoring and trustworthy materials in addition to the low prices.

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Foot Trouble is Unnecessary, unless caused by some Physical Ailment.

The trouble with the average person is that they do not give foot trouble the proper attention. Ill-fitting shoes usually cause foot trouble—and fitting feet is a profession. Thirty-seven years at the game of fitting feet eliminates all guess work as to our proficiency in that respect. Mr. Wilbur Baney, our clerk, has had twenty-five years experience. We do not guess. We know how to give you the proper size, and the kind of shoes that your feet need.

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