

The paper that P. Gray Meek edited and published for fifty-seven years and now published by his estate at the Watchman Printing House, Bellefonte, Pa.

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BELLEFONTE, PA., OCTOBER 30, 1931

#### DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET

<b>Sheriff</b> JOHN M. BOOB of Milledale	<b>County Commissioner</b> JOHN S. SPEARLY of Spring Township
<b>County Treasurer</b> ROBERT F. HUNTER of Bellefonte	<b>J. VICTOR BRUNGART</b> of Rebersburg
<b>Prothonotary</b> S. CLAUDE HERR of Bellefonte	<b>County Auditor</b> IRVIN A. MEYER of Coburn
<b>Recorder of Deeds</b> D. A. McDOWELL of Spring Township	<b>CLARENCE A. YEARIK</b> of State College
<b>Register of Wills</b> JOHN L. WETZEL of Milledale	<b>Coroner</b> DR. WALTER J. KURTZ of Howard
	<b>County Surgeon</b> J. THOMPSON HENRY of Huston Township

### ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT ELECTION

Next Tuesday the taxpayers of Centre county will go to the polls to elect the men who will manage their business for the next four years.

Some, who can't be brought to see how much a county election really means to them, will vote "the same old way." Some will vote as their political boss has told them to do. Some Prohibitionists will vote for any old ripppling shaker who has happened to jockey himself onto their ticket regardless of his fitness for the office he seeks. Some will vote because their aunt's husband's step-mother's thirty-second cousin has been promised a road job after the snow gets too deep to work on the roads. Some will vote without knowing who the candidates are or what it is all about.

None of these classes of voters are worth appealing to. They are either so wedded to their idols or so befogged, mentally, that argument or elucidation is wasted on them.

On the eve of this coming election we want to talk to another class: The people of Centre county who know that they are burdened with taxes higher than they ought to be and have the intelligence to see that there is a way to give them some relief.

The county treasury into which the tax money goes is regarded as if it were the bar! on which designing politicians have the right to draw whenever they want to reward friends or gratify their own ambitions.

Centre county had no more population in 1930 than it had in 1920, yet the cost of its government was \$47,644.41 more in 1930 than it was in 1920. This awful increase can't be laid to increases in the cost of bridges, county roads and road damages as some attempt to do for the Auditor's Statement will show you that in 1920 \$50,828.77 was paid out for such purposes while in 1930 only \$49,550.40 was expended on the same accounts.

We have analyzed the accounts carefully and there is no other cause for the burdensome increase than salaries for needless offices, extravagance in many places and bad management. In 1920 the county had \$108,000.00 in bonds and notes outstanding. In 1930 this indebtedness had climbed to \$211,000.00. Climbed \$103,000.00 in face of the fact that less has been expended for what might be called public improvements during the three years than was spent in 1924, 1925 and 1926.

If this kind of thing is to go on no one can foresee what the tax rate might be in a very few years.

The time has come to halt such extravagance. To elect County Commissioners who will think of the people who pay the taxes instead of being cowed by political overlords who let nothing stand in the way of their plans to build machines with which they can provide fat berths for themselves and their favorites.

Truth sounds ugly at times, but when the taxpaying classes of Centre county are in the desperate straits they are now they need to know it.

With thousands out of employment, farmers receiving less for their crops and cattle than they ever have and dividends on the stock investments on which many others depend for a living being passed about the only hope of some relief is in reduced taxation.

A county that is going deeper and deeper in debt can't offer that, unless there is a change in its management.

Let us make that change on Tuesday by putting the management of our business in the control of J. Victor Brungart and John S. Spearly.

They are Democrats, but they are competent, fearless men who can be depended on to be for the people instead of the politicians.

### A REAL AUDIT IS NEEDED

There are lots of things in connection with the conduct of the county's business during the past four years that the taxpayers have never been able to find out. The reason has been because the annual Auditor's Statement has covered them up. In other words, it has not revealed the real situation. Put Irvin Meyer and Clarence Yearick in the Auditor's office and they'll dig it right. They have no political favorites to shield and when they publish a statement it will tell the whole truth.

Last year the Statement for 1930 was published. It showed that the County had notes outstanding to the amount of \$111,000.00. This indebtedness was in addition to the \$100,000.00 in bonds outstanding against the redemption of which there was \$11,000.00 in the sinking fund.

As a matter of fact the indebtedness was much greater, for there were many unpaid bills that were not accounted for. They were held over until after the Auditor had finished their work and waiting in the statement indicated to the taxpayers that even if running the county in 1930 might have been even greater than it turned out to be.

In reality the Auditor's made only a report. What the people of the county should have is a full and complete Statement and they would be sure of getting one if they elected Meyer and Yearick.

If we should be fair enough to admit that it is not wholly responsible for putting the county in the hole it is in, we wonder if the Republican party will be fair enough to admit that it can't get it out.

If you want to prevent a similar thing from happening again, vote for the Democrats, the State and the County as it is with votes on November 3rd. Keeping away politicians to their homes quiet or even a revolt in the next election.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY

Items taken from the Watchman issue of November 4, 1881.

—We are glad to say that Jonathan Harper Esq. is quite recovered from his recent serious illness.

—Of course it is none of our business, says the Tyrone Herald, but we can't resist noting the fact that Bellefonte raised \$1500 for her V. M. C. A. and Philipsburg raised \$1500 for a horse race last week.

—There was a pleasant surprise party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Haupt, in the West ward, last Monday night. Quite a large number of friends participated and a most enjoyable time was the result.

—Mr. Alois Kohlbecker, of the Central City hotel, Milledale, sets an excellent table and keeps a good house. He is a prominent and useful citizen and is consulted on all important matters relating to affairs of Boggs township.

—Miss Marion Petriken has been so ill that her school has been closed until she gets better. —(Miss Petriken's school stood where the hall named for her now stands on High street. It was in that little one story frame building that we learned our A, B, C's and, incidentally, it was in the little vestibule at the rear right corner that a very much feared black walnut ruler often tattooed the part of our anatomy on which we sit as we write this—Editor's Note.)

—The fine crack shots of Co. H., M. G. P., of Johnstown, engaged in a shooting match with the sharpshooters of Co. H., Bellefonte, on the fair grounds here last Saturday and Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Abram Shinnelfelt, of Oconia, had driven into Philipsburg to spend the evening. They hitched their horse in front of the Potter house and Mrs. Shinnelfelt started for Dr. Lytle's office, her husband remaining at the hotel. She had gone only a few minutes when men heard screams of "murder" coming from the locality of the Methodist church. Arriving at the scene of the tragedy they found a villain named Louis Gonsier choking and trying to overpower the good woman. He was captured and locked up and it turned out that he had just been released from the penitentiary where he had served a term for outraging a little girl.

—It seems to be settled that the glass works in this place are to be revived. Richard Davis, an Englishman, from Detroit, and Raymond Remis, of Baltimore, have bought the property and already men are at work cleaning it up preparatory to operation. That will mean work for from sixty to seventy-five highly paid operatives.

—One of the boldest, most dastardly and hellish outrages which have occurred in this part of the State for time out of mind, was perpetrated in Philipsburg last Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Abram Shinnelfelt, of Oconia, had driven into Philipsburg to spend the evening. They hitched their horse in front of the Potter house and Mrs. Shinnelfelt started for Dr. Lytle's office, her husband remaining at the hotel. She had gone only a few minutes when men heard screams of "murder" coming from the locality of the Methodist church. Arriving at the scene of the tragedy they found a villain named Louis Gonsier choking and trying to overpower the good woman. He was captured and locked up and it turned out that he had just been released from the penitentiary where he had served a term for outraging a little girl.

—If the situation were not so serious we could laugh at the panic all our great statesmen and financiers seem to be in. The little old business man back on "Main street" adjusts himself easily to present conditions because he has been up against them before. The average poor man scarcely notices that there is anything wrong because his estate has always been so lowly that he is not conscious of its being a notch or so lower. But the present day statesmen and financiers, born with a silver spoon in their mouths, and come into power in an era of unprecedented prosperity, are confronted with a problem. Economic, almost, in its inscrutability. These are the kinds of times that show up the stuffed shirts who have been masquerading as really great men.

—Our panacea for the relief of the country is just this: Declare a moratorium on all government, but police regulations, for a period of two years. Give all the Federal and State commissions, the snappers and inspectors, inspectors and investigators a vacation of two years without pay. And knock every political demagogue in the head if he opens his mouth to say anything else than that he is sorry for what he has done to bring about the sad state the country is in.

—An all day neighborhood reception was held Tuesday for Miss Cella Armour, at the E. F. German home on east High street, where she had been taken early in the day by Mr. German. According to a pre-arranged plan all her former neighbors in that locality called at a different time, giving each one an opportunity for a bit of conversation with this remarkable woman, who though past ninety, is as alert mentally, as at any time in her long life. The day was one never to be forgotten by Miss Armour.

—For automatic heat in your home and at least 50% saving in your coal bill, buy an Iron Fireman automatic coal burner. Inquire at Harter's music store, Bellefonte or call Bell 229.

—Read the Watchman and get all the news when it is news.

### A HODGE-PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

There is an old time saw to the effect that none of us realize how lucky we are. And just now, in this time of deep depression, those of us who have steady jobs and the wherewith to get enough to eat and wear have no conception of the plight of many less fortunate. But this is only preliminary. What we started out to say is that some of us are lucky we are not in jail. While on the face of it it may seem absurdly impossible yet figures prove that since Harry E. Dunlap has been sheriff of Centre county one out of every seventy-eight people in Centre county over the age of 21 years has been enrolled as one of his boarders on the Mill.

During his first year as sheriff the total number of prisoners was 288. In his second year he had 348. Last year the number was 411, and up until October 20th, of this year, the number was 342. That makes a total of 1389 prisoners he has had under his care in three years and nine months, or an average of about 350 a year. According to the last census there are 27326 men and women of voting age in Centre county and if you divide that number by 350 you will get 78.

But the average term is not near as long as one might suppose. In 1928 the 288 prisoners spent 7052 days in jail, or an average of 24½ days a man. In 1929 348 prisoners spent 9409 days in jail, or an average of 27 days. Last year the 411 prisoners spent 9969 days in jail or an average of 24½. Figuring the same average for the 342 prisoners so far this year they will have spent 7853 days in jail, which makes an average for the entire term so far of about 25 days per prisoner, so that isn't so bad, if you've got to go to jail.

But here are some more figures that don't look so good. The total number of prison days served up to the present is approximately 34980. If one man had to serve them all he would be in jail for 96 years. And that's why some of us are lucky.

The offenses for which such a large number have been in jail include about everything on the criminal calendar from a plain case of assault to murder, but by far the largest percentage was for violations of the motor code and violations of the liquor laws.

And we might also add that there are two good reasons why the percentage of inmates was not higher. One reason is that the jail is not large enough and the other that the average resident of Centre county is proverbially honest. As an instance, a fountain pen has been lying on the counter in the Prothonotary's office for at least three months. It has been picked up and handled by hundreds of men and women, many of whom, no doubt, have often wished to possess such a pen, but no one has ever attempted to make way with it, and the pen is still there. That is a real test of honesty; at least it would be if the pen were any good, but it isn't. It won't write.

P. S.—Since the above was put in type the pen has disappeared and we don't know whether somebody stole it or threw it away.

Philipsburg people have set up one of their new voting machines and are practicing how to manipulate the various levers so as to be in shape for the election next Tuesday. While we don't know much about the machines we'll bet that more than one of the voters in the burg will wish for an old-time ballot before he gets through registering his preference on the machine, especially if he does much cutting with his ticket.

A blockade of automobiles occurred on the State highway, near the old McCoy works, one day last week, all for the purpose of watching an old mother bear feeding her cub on corn she pulled from one of John McCoy's shocks in his cornfield at the point of the mountain. And the old bear didn't pay as much attention to the automobilists as they did to her.

Last Saturday afternoon a cat was playing on east Bishop street, running back and forth across the street between passing autos. But the feline missed it's guess and within an hour all that remained of pussy was a streak of fur in the middle of the street.

—Vote for Robert F. Hunter for Treasurer. You might not have directly felt the effect of his constant plugging for the good of the people of Centre county, but indirectly, we are so sure some benefit has come to you through his work that we think one good turn deserves another.

—Vote for J. M. Kelchline for Justice of the Peace. He is the only nominee on the Republican and Democratic ballots. He is a lawyer by profession and a Justice of the Peace and has the qualifications to fill the office.

—William Fisher, 24 years old, of Port Matilda, is in a serious condition in the Blair Memorial hospital, Huntington, as the result of an automobile accident at Warrior Ridge, Saturday afternoon. He is suffering with a fractured skull.



JOHN M. BOOB

Clean cut, christian young man, wounded in France while fighting for his country, is a candidate for Sheriff. Is he to be forgotten next Tuesday!

SHAFER.—Uriah S. Shaffer, well known resident of Miles township, died at his home in Madisonburg, at an early hour last Wednesday morning as the result of general debility.

He was a son of Adam and Mary Smeltzer Shaffer and was born at Madisonburg on May 21st, 1848, hence was 83 years and 5 months old. He followed farming all his life until advancing age compelled his retirement. He was a member of the Lutheran church and was held in highest esteem by all who knew him. He married Mary Catherine Yearick who survives with two children, Mrs. John F. Royer, of Madisonburg, and Ellis B. Shaffer, of Lock Haven. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Emma Hazel, of Spring Mills.

Funeral services were held in the Madisonburg Lutheran church, at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, by the pastor, Rev. E. N. Fry, burial being made in the church cemetery.

FRANK.—Mrs. Catherine Frank, widow of William H. Frank, an old-time iron worker who for fifteen years or more was employed at the Valentine furnace which stood where the Titan Metal plant is now located, died at the Mercy hospital, Altoona, on Monday, following a prolonged illness.

She was past 65 years old and was a native of Hollidaysburg. The family lived in Bellefonte fifteen years but left here about thirty years ago and had since made their home in Hollidaysburg. Mr. Frank died two years ago but surviving their mother are four children, all at home. She also leaves four brothers and three sisters. Burial was made at Hollidaysburg yesterday morning.

GATES.—William J. Gates died at the Philipsburg State hospital, Wednesday morning, following an illness of several months as the result of general debility.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gates and was born near Port Matilda almost 81 years ago. He never married but is survived by one brother, George Gates, of Port Matilda, a half-brother and half-sister, J. P. Gates, of Reading, and Mrs. Albert Miller, of Philipsburg, with whom he had made his home for some years.

The funeral will be held this afternoon, burial to be made in the Black Oak cemetery, in Worth township.

GRAZIER.—Mrs. Verna Irene Grazier, wife of Oscar M. Grazier, died at her home at Gatesburg, Monday evening, following five years illness with pernicious anemia.

She was a daughter of Solomon and Emily Gates and was born near Gatesburg on January 24th, 1879, hence was in her 53rd year. In November, 1908, she married Mr. Grazier who survives with no children. She was a member of the Gatesburg Lutheran church.

Funeral services were held at her late home at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon by Rev. J. S. English, burial being made in the Gatesburg cemetery.

—Representatives from Half-moon, Howard, Milledale, Unionville, Port Matilda and Snow Shoe Methodist churches attended a group quarterly conference held in the Bellefonte Methodist church on Wednesday afternoon. Dr. A. L. Miller presided at the group meeting and in the evening held the first quarterly conference of the Bellefont charge.

—Roy Watt, who escaped from Rockview penitentiary on September 25th, was captured in New Orleans, on Monday, and will be brought back to Centre county for sentence for breaking and escaping.

—Ellery Shreckengast, an employee of the State forestry department, was painfully burned, Monday morning, when his clothing caught fire while fighting a forest fire not far from Hairy John's park.

—Vote for John Boob for Sheriff. He was wounded while helping to make the U. S. A. a safe place for you to live in.

### PINE GROVE MILLS

Mrs. Clair Irvin is away on a several week's visit with friends in Ohio.

Walter Johnson, of Shingletown, was here, on Sunday, visiting his mother.

Mrs. Catherine Philips spent the week-end with her son Gray, at McElhattan.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Cheesman and niece spent Sunday with relatives in Williamsport.

Harvest Home services were held in the Presbyterian church here on Sunday evening.

George Wieland and mother spent Saturday afternoon in Bellefonte and Centre Hall.

Candidates have been as thick here, the past week, as bees among springtime flowers.

George Elder, of Cumberland, Md., spent the early part of the week with relatives here.

The Charles Segner family, of Boalsburg, spent Sunday as guests of Mrs. Viola Smith.

Mrs. Homer Edmison and son Charles are spending the week with friends in Philadelphia.

After spending the summer with friends in California Mrs. J. G. Aston has returned home.

Paul McWilliams, a young farmer from the Graysville section, spent Saturday evening in town.

A donation will be taken up here, in the near future, for the Presbyterian home at Hollidaysburg.

Fred B. Goss and son Budd motored in from Pittsburgh for an over Sunday visit with Mrs. A. F. Goss.

Clarence Daugherty and family, of Tyrone, were Sunday guests at the parental home of W. O. Daugherty.

Master Harold Gates has returned to his home in Tyrone, after a week's visit with grandpa J. C. Gates.

Miss Mary McWilliams, of the Presbyterian home at Hollidaysburg, is here for a few days visit among old friends.

J. W. Sunday, Civil war veteran, is suffering with a bad attack of rheumatism but is able to get around by using crutches.

Rev. John S. English and family motored to Mont Alto and spent a day with his son John, a student in the forestry school.

Irvin H. Keller and wife have returned to their home, in Pittsburgh, after spending a week among old friends in this section.

It is rumored that our town is soon to have the services of a young physician who is expected to locate here permanently.

John H. Bailey and wife and Mrs. Nannie Bailey motored to Saxton and spent a day with their cousin, Warren Bailey and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Houser and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hess Tate, of Lewistown, were week-end visitors at the Mrs. Mary Meyers home.

Mrs. C. B. Anderson and children, of State College, left, on Saturday, for Los Angeles, Cal., where they expect to make their future home.

Miss Gladys Barto accompanied Miss Frances Fry to Altoona, last week, going up with the expectation of landing a position of some kind.

A little boy arrived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Musser, on the Branch, on Monday night. A little son also arrived at the Robert Bloom home, on Saturday night.

Lawrence Fox, formerly of this place but now of Cambria county, is a patient in the Cresson hospital, under treatment for injuries sustained in a fall from a load of corn fodder.

Hugh Corl Fry was 21 years old, on Sunday, and his mother entertained a number of his school chums at the Lock Haven teacher's college at a chicken dinner in celebrating the event.

Robert Harpster, of Gatesburg, was in town on Tuesday and reported that he had just finished drilling a well 275 feet deep, and had found water sufficient to supply all Gatesburg.

The I. W. T. band will hold a Halloween social tomorrow (Saturday) evening, at the Daniel Irvin home. It will be a costume affair and refreshments suitable to the occasion will be served.

Lois Shank, whose eleventh anniversary occurred on Sunday, was given a birthday dinner party, on Saturday, by her mother, Mrs. J. L. Shank, to which a number of her young friends were invited.

### IN BELLEFONTE CHURCHES

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.  
 9:30 A. M., Church school; Herman Hazel, superintendent.  
 10:45 A. M., Morning Worship; Sermon: "Three Kinds of Useless Church Members."  
 7:30 P. M., Vesper service; Sermon: "A Christian's Clothes."  
 Clarence E. Arnold, Pastor.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH.  
 9:15, Sunday school.  
 10:30, Foreign Mission services. Mr. H. W. Shaffer, of Lock Haven, a member of the General Board of Missions, will be the guest speaker.  
 8:30, E. L. C. E.  
 7:30, Evening Worship. Sermon by the minister.  
 A Ward Campbell, Pastor.

METHODIST CHURCH.  
 Church Bible school, C. C. Shuey, Supt., 9:30, with World Service program and offering. League, 6:30, has a stirring subject—prepared leader and open discussion; young people eagerly attend. Worship—10:45 special preaching: 7:30, evangelistic service.  
 Pastor responds to all calls for his services. Strangers, and visitors in particular, commercial travelers, welcome.  
 Horace Lincoln Jacobs, Pastor.