

COUNTY BONDS.

AN ISSUE OF \$40,000 ORDERED BY THE COURT.

Judge Ikeler filed the following opinion last Saturday:

In the matter of the application by petition of the County Commissioners to issue bonds for the payment of the present county indebtedness.

The petition sets forth a funded indebtedness of \$20,000 due, also \$34,000 damages to the owners of the river bridge at Catawissa, \$66,500 estimated cost of the construction of the county bridge across the river at Hendershott's ferry, as per contract of November 25, 1893, and \$7,000 due sundry persons, making a total indebtedness of \$127,500.00, less total assets due from collectors of \$11,770.00, leaving a debt unprovided for of \$115,730.00.

On the 23d day of May, 1891, with in four months after the present board of commissioners entered upon their official duties, and upon their petition setting forth an indebtedness of \$20,000 we approved of the issuing of county bonds to pay the same. That debt had been contracted by a former board of county commissioners for the erection of the late addition to the court house, which addition and building was at that time partly constructed and it was alleged in their petition that that sum was required for its completion, fitting and furnishing. That debt still exists, no doubt owing to the increased avenues of expenditures, and the continued low rate of county taxes, from which cause also the increased debt of \$7,000 arose.

The debt of \$34,000 was incurred Nov. 9th, 1893, and that of \$66,500 on the 25th day of the same month and year, and there is no allegation or pretense that any of the latter named sum is due and payable.

The grand jury at this session of the court have recommended "that the county commissioners and county auditors at their next meeting to settle and audit the accounts for the year, make provision to reduce, or fix a special rate or percentage for the county treasurer at any time when an unusual large sum of money is to be handled by said officer, as for instance in erecting a public building, bridges, etc., that the rate be commensurate with the duties of his office."

In this recommendation we heartily concur, and the present Treasurer by paper filed in this case on Nov. 13, 1893, has signified his willingness and offer to take a commission of one per cent on such sum as may be necessary to relieve the public business from present conditions. But a few days remain until January 1st next, when the present board of county commissioners and the county treasurer will go out of office and new ones come in and the annual auditors' settlement of the county accounts take place, and in view of the fact and of the recommendation of the Grand Jury, the graver duties and responsibilities of the incoming officials, such as the fixing of the Treasurer's commissions, the valuation of taxable property and occupations, and the rate of assessment, in order to meet and successfully provide for the payment of the present indebtedness, we deem it prudent to withhold full approval of the present application. The time, or different times that the proposed large issue of bonds should be made to fall due and payable is an important matter for the officers to consider and fix who must provide by taxation the means with which to pay and discharge the same.

Can it be successfully maintained that it would be wise and beneficial to the county at this time to borrow money to pay upon the undue and unperformed contract for the building of a river bridge at Hendershott's ferry? With the knowledge we have of that contract, admitting that such knowledge is quite limited, we think it would be improper and prejudicial to the best interests of the tax payers.

We are informed by the county Treasurer in his paper filed of record in this case that there is no money in the treasury with which to pay jurors and witnesses who are in attendance at court, and costs due parties, witnesses and officers in commonwealth cases, and with his promise to handle the funds which may be derived from the negotiation and sale of bonds which are hereby directed to issue and in order to relieve the county officials from the present stringency, and pay the ordinary and current county expenses and bills due, and to pay off and discharge the county indebtedness due to the stockholders of the river bridge at Catawissa, con- demned as a toll bridge and accepted

by the county to be free at the sum of \$34,000, we authorize and approve of the issuing of bonds according to the prayer of the petitioners as to time of coming due and rate of interest and to the extent of forty thousand dollars in denominations of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars and the money derived from the issue, sale and negotiation of said bonds shall first be applied by the said commissioners to the payment and discharge of the debt now due and owing to the stockholders of said Catawissa bridge, and the balance of the said forty thousand dollars allowed and to be derived as aforesaid shall be applied by the county commissioners solely and exclusively to the payment of the funded debt of twenty thousand dollars as shown by the certified statement of the county commissioners hereto attached.

Neither the Court, the county commissioners nor the two together possess the power to authorize the using of valid bonds for the defraying of ordinary current expenses or for the payment of debts contracted therefor.

The bonds issued under the order shall not be sold at less than their par value. In making this order we do not wish it to be understood that we will be unfavorable to the issuing of a proper amount of bonds for the erection of a county bridge across the Susquehanna river at Hendershott's ferry, at the proper time, but believing that the amount herein approved will relieve the county officials from their present financial embarrassment so that they can appropriate and apply the incoming money due from collectors to the payment of current expenses and be for the best interests of all concerned, the foregoing order for the issue of bonds to the extent of forty thousand dollars is made and approved.

BY THE COURT.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Next Sunday afternoon W. H. Brooke will conduct a Christmas song service in Association Hall. The service will be a pleasing one, the music lively and the talks short and bright.

The ladies auxiliary will tender a reception to the young men of Bloomsburg on New Year's day. Light refreshments will be served from 1 to 5 p. m. In the evening J. C. Hitchner, the "Mark Twain" of the Wyoming Valley, will give his humorous lecture, "Tid-Bits." A programme of music has been provided for the afternoon and evening. Don't fail to hear Mr. Hitchner, admission free. Read the following from the *Scranton Times*: "Throop is still laughing. The reason is our humorist friend, Joseph Hitchner, delivered his humorous lecture. 'Tid Bits,' there last evening. Joe's labors have met with reward wherever he has gone to speak. He gets his audience laughing at the beginning, and if you would not laugh at his talk—which you have to—you will at the way in which he delivers it. 'Tid Bits' is composed of humorous stories, which make you laugh at the ridiculousness of them, jokes, and with now and then a piece of good advice. His description of the life of a young married couple is extremely funny, and if all newly married couples would follow out his advice there would be no scandalous divorce cases. Mr. Hitchner has all his life been engaged in the cracker business—baking Hitchner's cream crackers, and cracking jokes. We are proud of Joe, and have just reason to be, for the way he made his audience laugh at Throop was enough to convince anyone that there was fun in 'Tid-Bits.' And if anyone doubts it, just hear him once. We have heard him two or three times and want to hear him some more. Mr. Hitchner has gained an enviable reputation as a humorist, and we are beginning to feel jealous of our neighboring towns because he will not deliver his lecture here. It ever he does we will guarantee him a full house."

With the new time table on the B. & S. R. R. it is expected to have the railway postal clerk make two instead of one round trip each day, thus giving the people much better mail service than at present. Another good feature is the Reading connection to and from Philadelphia and intermediate stations. In order to accommodate the Millville trade on Saturday it has been arranged to have a train leave Bloomsburg, (Saturdays only) at 6:10 a. m. for Orangeville, returning reach Bloomsburg 7:55 a. m. A so an evening train will leave Bloomsburg for Orangeville at 7:30 p. m. (Saturdays only), returning reach Bloomsburg 8:30 p. m. These trains will give the people of Bloomsburg and Millville an opportunity to visit the respective places and return the same day.

Theta Castle, K. G. E. attended services at the Evangelical church on Sunday morning last.

THE LUNGER CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLUMBIAN:

A false and villainous article was published in last week's issue of the *Republican*, relating to the recent case of Commonwealth vs. the Kline-tobs and Remleys. For the sake of Justice, and in behalf of the Grand Jury, who only found a true bill for "assault," the lowest offence indictable under the law, and of the traverse jury, which decided the case, we feel obliged to make some answer to this article.

The *Republican* says, "that the proof throughout was that these young men tormented and insulted Miss Lunger from the church all the way home." We are shocked at this statement. The writer was either ignorant of the proof, or willfully and maliciously misrepresented it. Of the five other young men and women who were eyewitnesses to the conduct of the defendants; who were with the party and were the only disinterested witnesses to the transaction, all of them, in their testimony, positively and unqualifiedly contradicted Miss Lunger, and averred that all that was said and done by the defendants appeared to be in sport, and was assented to, encouraged and participated in by her, even to the taking of the arm of one of the defendants who accompanied her to her home. They testified point blank that the treatment of Miss Lunger was no worse than that accorded the other young ladies, and was absolutely void of abuse, insult or rudeness.

Moreover, these witnesses were not called on the part of the defence, but their evidence was that of the prosecution itself. So that to have convicted these boys, the jury would have been compelled to disbelieve five-sixths of the commonwealth's own case, and all the disinterested witnesses. A verdict of "guilty" could not have stood according to law.

Evidently the jury did not wish to place any costs upon the misguided and mistaken mother, since they first returned a verdict with the costs evenly divided between the county and the defendants. But upon being told by the Court that such a division of the costs could not be made under the law, they again retired, and after several hours of deliberation, divided the costs between the Prosecutrix and defendants. For so doing they should not be censured. Newspaper correspondents and editors should be careful how they criticize and comment upon the conduct of jurors acting under their oaths and with the sworn information of the facts before them. And when jurors, as in this case, obey the obligation of their oaths and render a verdict strictly according to the evidence, every fair minded man should, in conformity to law, good order and fair dealing, scorn and resent their censure. Justice hisses like an adder, at the very name of the author of this article, which may some day recoil upon him.

We do not wish to enter into a newspaper controversy, realizing as we do the advantages possessed by an Editor over an individual in disputes of this character; but if our statements are denied, we challenge a publication of the evidence—not garbled parts thereof—and will cheerfully abide the result.

Very respectfully,
FRED IKELER,
CHARLES C. EVANS.

The Bloomsburg & Sullivan R. R. Co. will issue a new time table in effect January 1st, 1894. It would be well for patrons of the railroad to carefully note the same, as some very radical changes from present time table will be made. We understand the early morning train from Jamison City and the late evening train from Bloomsburg for Jamison City will be discontinued. Train now leaving Bloomsburg at 8:35 a. m. will after Jan. 1, '94 leave at 7:25 a. m. for Jamison City; returning leave Jamison City at 9:10 a. m., arrive at Bloomsburg 10:40 a. m., making connections both with D. L. & W. train for Scranton and P. & R. train for Philadelphia. Train now leaving at 2:35 p. m. for Jamison City will after Jan. 1, 1894, leave at 4:10 p. m. This will be the last evening train north. Train now leaving Jamison City at 5 p. m. will leave at 6 p. m.

Hess Bros'. large show windows certainly have on their holiday attire. One of them is filled with diamonds, gold watches, sterling silver and fine jewelry, and the other contains a fine assortment of plush case goods. A mechanical figure of a coy little maid en calls the attention of people passing by tapping on the glass.

Five per cent will be added to all unpaid taxes in Hemlock township after Dec. 31, 1893.

BRIEF MENTION.

About People You Know.

R. R. Little Esq., went to Philadelphia on Tuesday, on business.

Miss Helen Harman, of Norristown, is visiting her relatives here.

Mr. E. C. Wells is able to be out again, after an illness of several months.

Mrs. C. Watson McKelvy spent several days in Philadelphia this week.

Dr. and Mrs. G. Stuart Kirby, of Mauch Chunk, came up on Monday to visit their relatives here.

Invitations are out for the marriage of Mr. Ira Brown and Miss Laura Brockway, on December 26th.

Domer Geisinger of Espy, an employee of this office, is laid up with the grip this week. His place is filled by Edward Corell.

John R. Sharpless Esq., intends to locate in Hazleton to practice law. William Magill Esq., a young lawyer of Danville expects to open an office in Bloomsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Appelman, of Wellersville, have issued invitations for the wedding of their daughter, Fannie Udella, to Mr. W. Ernest Utt, on New Year's Day.

Col. A. D. Seely, of Berwick, was in town on Monday. He is a member of Governor Pattison's staff, an earnest democrat, and a good fellow all around.

Oscar Alexander has purchased the J. B. Robison property at the corner of Third and West streets. He will make some improvements and occupy it as a home.

DIRECTORS' MEETING.

The adjourned meeting of the school directors of Columbia county was held in the High School building, Bloomsburg, on Saturday, Dec. 16th, to hear the report of committee appointed to investigate the rumors concerning the moral character of County Superintendent W. C. Johnston. The meeting was called for one o'clock, but in the absence of the secretary the body was not called to order until fifteen minutes of two, when Geo. C. Fenstermacher, of Berwick, was selected as secretary pro tem. The minutes and list of townships with names of directors being in possession of secretary, who was yet absent, County Superintendent Johnston offered a list which he had, and by permission called the roll. The responses showed 67 out of 168 to be present, being but a little over one third of the number of directors. Immediately upon call of the roll the president, Dr. F. W. Redeker, of Scott township, announced the purpose of the meeting and called for the report of the committee. The report was read by Dr. Vance, of Mt. Pleasant township, and stated that the committee had before them voluntary witnesses—that they had no power to subpoena any one, but that the evidence obtained, a copy of which was attached to the report, was sufficient to justify the current rumors, and they recommended that the report, together with the evidence be submitted to State Superintendent Dr. Schaffer for consideration. Immediately upon taking his seat a motion was made and duly seconded that the report be adopted. A lively discussion then ensued with C. C. Evans, Esq., and J. W. Kurtz, of Berwick, and M. C. McCollum, of Espy, defending Superintendent Johnston, while J. C. Brown and J. R. Townsend, of Bloomsburg, and Dr. A. B. McCrea, of Berwick, stood firm for the adoption of the report. The subject of reading the evidence obtained was the theme for much debate, one of the committee objecting to its being read; he, however, waived his objection and Dr. Vance read the evidence entire. After a little more war of words, a motion was made that a ye and nay vote be taken. Mr. Fenstermacher, who was appointed secretary pro tem, was asked to read the list from the memorandum of Supt. Johnston, and Secretary G. Y. Mourey tallied the vote, which resulted in 26 for adoption of the report, and 41 for rejection. The report being rejected a motion was made that the committee be discharged, when the meeting adjourned until the next annual session.

Creasy & Wells have purchased a tract of timber land in Jackson twp. from Iram Derr. It contains 600 acres and is covered with pine and oak. The price paid is \$15,000. They have also purchased a large tract this side of Northumberland, and another at Evers Grove. Mills will be located on these tracts, and it will take many years to cut all the timber.

A GRAND BOON!!

TO CLOTHING BUYERS.

More Reductions!

Greater Sacrifices!

In spite of the dullness of the season the steady outflow of Clothing from the Lowenberg Clothing Store has been marvelous.

—But there still remains—

Thousands OF Dollars'

Worth of the most desirable Goods. This seasons' most Stylish

STORM COATS, OVERCOATS AND SUITS.

They must be sold, in a short time no matter what they bring.

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Elegant Mens' Suits

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—ELEGANT—

Long Storm Overcoats

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A great many Overcoats go for about Fifty cents on the Dollar of the Market Value of the Goods.

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the nicest line of goods at half the original prices.

Elegant Children's Suits and Overcoats, the nicest kind of goods to be sold, no matter what they cost.

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