

THE COLUMBIAN. BLOOMSBURG, PA. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1909. NEW PRISON LAW PROPOSED.

Big Reformatory for Girls

Among the bills introduced in the legislature is one providing for an indeterminate sentence for criminals.

After first providing for the care of prisoners placed on probation for minor crimes, such as do not carry a penitentiary sentence, the bill provides that whenever any person convicted in any Court of this Commonwealth of any crime shall be sentenced to imprisonment...

The Board of Inspectors of the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries shall meet once each month at their respective penitentiary. At each meeting of the Boards every prisoner confined upon an indeterminate sentence...

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

If it shall appear to either of the Boards of Inspectors upon an application by a convict for release on parole that there is a reasonable probability that such applicant will live and remain at liberty without violating the law...

In commuting the sentences of convicts by releasing them on parole, the Governor shall annex a condition to the effect that if any convict so released shall, during the period of parole, be convicted of any crime punishable by imprisonment under the law of this Commonwealth...

AGAINST CHILD TEMPTERS.

Four bills concerning children were introduced by Representative Alter of Allegheny. They were prepared by the Juvenile Court Association of Allegheny County.

One of the bills is aimed at any person, firm or corporation that knowingly permits a minor to be sent to a disorderly house. The penalty is a fine of \$1000 or one year in prison.

Another measure makes it a misdemeanor for any person who willfully or negligently causes or contributes to the delinquency of a minor who is held to be a delinquent child. The penalty is a fine of \$1000 or imprisonment for one year.

A third bill extends the powers of Juvenile Courts, respecting the

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its ages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical profession. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment...

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Does not contain Opium, Morphine, or any other narcotic or habit-forming drug. Nothing of a poisonous or harmful character enters into its composition. This clean and pure cough cure cures coughs that cannot be cured by any other medicine. It has saved thousands from consumption. It has saved thousands of lives. A 25c. bottle contains 40 doses. At all druggists', 25c., 50c., and \$1. Don't accept anything else.

commitment to institutions or other judicial disposal of minors. The fourth bill deems a person in contempt of court who shall assist or encourage a minor under the jurisdiction of a Juvenile Court to violate his or her parole. The punishment is the same as that in other cases of contempt.

BIG REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

There is no place but the House of Correction or the County Prison to send a delinquent girl over 16 years of age," explains Representative Samuel Salus, in relation to the bill introduced by him, for an institution for young women, on the plan of the Huntingdon Reformatory. The bill would appropriate \$500,000 for the purpose and have a commission of five, including "one of the minority party," appointed by the Governor, to carry out the project.

The Reformatory Building Commission shall furnish a detailed statement of their accounts to the Auditor General at quarterly intervals. When such accounts shall be audited, settled and adjusted by the Auditor General, it shall be his duty to cause them to be published at least once a week for three weeks, in three morning and two afternoon papers in Philadelphia; two morning papers and one afternoon paper in Pittsburgh and Scranton, and to other newspapers having general circulation throughout the Commonwealth in other places than Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton. The publication shall be within two weeks after each of the accounts shall be audited and adjusted.

Every Woman Will Be Interested.

If you have pains in the back, urinary, bladder or kidney trouble, and want a certain, pleasant cure for woman's ailments, try Mother Gray's Australian Leaf. It is a safe and never-failing regulator. At all druggists or by mail. Sample package FREE. Address, The Mother Gray Co., Levee, N. Y. 1-21-09.

Seek to Stop Forest Fires.

Railroad Commission Asks Advice on Means of Preventing Waste Due to Flames.

The State Railroad commission, in furtherance of a resolution adopted by it some months ago at the suggestion of Forestry Commissioner Robert S. Conklin, has addressed circulars to all of the operating railroads of the State asking eleven questions as to the precautions they are taking to prevent fires on State and other forest lands.

The circular inquires how many fires occurred along the railroad's rights of way in 1908 which were attributable to operations of the road and amount of damage resulting; the details of settlements and suits as a result and whether any of the employees of the road have been paid by County Commissioners for fighting fires along the lines.

The questions go especially into the means taken by railroads to prevent forest fires, the railroads being asked among other things what system of inspection is followed, what devices are employed to keep down sparks or to prevent dropping of hot coals on tracks; whether the devices are on all locomotives and whether they are maintained as carefully as if they were a part of the operating machinery; what penalties are imposed for failure to use spark arresters and dumping of hot ashes. The railroads are also asked if they allow maintenance of way men to burn ties along their tracks and to supply copies of the rules for fighting fires.

INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC.

Chas. P. Elwell announces that he will be pleased to receive all former pupils on violin and piano, as well as new ones. Latest and best methods. Terms strictly cash by the lesson or month. Address Hotel Hilday, Bloomsburg, or call up on Bell phone any afternoon between 1 and 2.

Centralia Fears Big Cave-in.

People Are Up in Arms Against Lehigh Coal Company- Threatened Portion is in Fire District.

The residents of Centralia are enraged at the Lehigh Coal company, blaming it for a big cave-in Friday on lands owned by John O'Donnell. They say the coal has been mined too close to the surface and believe a wholesale collapse of land may result.

A \$70,000 fire recently wiped out an entire square of buildings in Centralia. The mineral rights under the fire district belong to the company and contain a huge block of coal. Following the fire the company offered lot owners a price not to rebuild so that the fuel could be removed without fear that cave-ins would cause loss of life.

O'Donnell unless the company pays him what he considers a fair price for the lot will likely institute suit for damages, as will more owners if their lots are destroyed. The company's coal land embraces most of the town's site and the corporation is busy taking out all the coal it can from under it, a number of houses being partly damaged as a result.

One Open Season.

Recommendation of the Game Commission.

The Pennsylvania game commissioners in their annual report, just out, recommend one open season for taking all game in this state except wild water fowl and shore birds and name November 1st as the date for the opening of that season and declare that it should close no later than December 15th. "In a majority of cases," says the report, "we feel that an open season covering the month of November is sufficient. Through this shortening of the season we believe our game will increase in sections where at present such game is not found at all. We recommend the passage of a law of this character. This will be good news to sportsmen generally who last year were made to realize the misfortune of opening the shooting season too early in the fall, and also of having different seasons for taking various kinds of game found in the same territory. Last season dove shooting opened on September 1st; grouse and squirrels on October 1st; rabbits and turkey on October 15th, and quail on November 1st. If the recommendations of the game commissioners are followed the season for this specie of game will open on November 1st. The commissioners also recommend better protection for birds other than game birds.

The Miners' Union.

With the expiration of the agreement between the anthracite mine workers and operators only a few weeks off, the condition of the miners' union in the anthracite region is now a subject of interest to both the men and their employers. President Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, in his address before the convention in Indianapolis, has supplied figures showing the numerical strength of his organization. In the three anthracite districts of Pennsylvania, says Mr. Lewis, the roll of the union for 1908 contains the names of 30,851 mine workers. As the total number of mine workers in these districts is 170,000 or thereabouts, the union membership represents only about eighteen per cent. of the whole. In one of the three districts, according to Mr. Lewis' report, there are only 4,517 union members. The agreement between the operators and miners following the strike of 1902, and the renewal of the agreement in 1906, have kept the anthracite region unusually free from trouble for six years, with the result that the men have felt no need of an organization. The Conciliation Board established by the Strike Commission of 1902 has been on hand to adjust any grievance presented by a mine worker. When they settled down to work after the "suspension" of 1906, the men began to be dropped from the union rolls for non-payment of dues. Recently the leaders declared a cut-rate initiation fee, in order to bring the men back into the fold. The new demands drafted by a union committee, for presentation to the operators, call for the abolition of the Conciliation Board for the collection of union dues through a system of deduction from wages. The labor leaders also demand that whatever agreement is made shall extend only one year, instead of three years.

Exonerates the President.

Mother of Girl in Alleged Horseback Incident Writes Him Letter.

For the first time making public a disclaimer of published reports that President Roosevelt, while riding in Rock Creek Park, near Washington, struck the horse ridden by a young woman who happened to ride near his party, the White House has given a letter received from the young woman's mother. It is dated at Los Angeles, Cal., January 27, and reads as follows:—

My daughter, Miss May Rhodes, whose horse, it has been widely reported, you struck while riding in the park last Thanksgiving Day, most emphatically denies any knowledge of such an occurrence, and as it is deemed of such importance as to be referred to in Congress may I be permitted to ask you why you do not deny this story? Very sincerely, ELIZABETH M. RHODES. President Roosevelt, as a rule, ignored these stories personal to himself. Most of them are apocryphal, like those at one time circulated about President Cleveland.

Shaless Deeds Against Paupers.

Venango Grand Jury Indicts County Commissioner, Steward and Others.

Shocking conditions at the Venango County Poorhouse have been revealed by the Grand Jury that has been making an investigation. As a result of the report six persons have been indicted for various crimes.

The most prominent among them is County Commissioner H. H. Baumgardner, of Oil City, now serving his second term. He is charged with criminally assaulting two young women inmates of the poorhouse, including a negro; with carrying away from the poorhouse large quantities of provisions, and with taking a rake-off of more than \$300 from plumbing done in the Court House and poorhouse. It is also charged that he had carried away produce, butter, meat and other goods from the farm and taken them to his home at Oil City. The Grand Jury recommended immediate action to remove him from office.

Judge George S. Criswell has ordered a special term of Criminal Court for the first week in March for the trial of Commissioner Baumgardner and the five others. This is two months sooner than the trials ordinarily would have occurred.

The other defendants are Mrs. Charlotta Baumgardner, wife of the Commissioner, accused of taking from the poorhouse dress goods, muslins and provisions; J. Homer Sutton, steward of the poorhouse, charged with criminal assaults upon inmates and aiding in the removal of the county's property from the poorhouse; Mrs. Lillian Sutton, his wife, accused of the larceny of dress goods, etc., from the poorhouse; Roy Sutton, an employe of the State Highway Department and son of the steward, accused of criminal relations with inmates, and William Small, accused of a similar crime.

One of the accusations against Commissioner Baumgardner is that the county paid a seamstress \$26 to do sewing for the poorhouse, and she spent half of her time sewing for Mrs. Baumgardner, Baumgardner is a Republican, and had aspirations for the Legislature.

The Grand Jury took occasion to score the County Commissioners for general negligence, and made a number of recommendations relative to safeguards that should be taken to prevent irregularities. It was recommended that no more county bridges be built, for the reason that the county is already \$232,000 in debt, and, if two bridges proposed are erected the debt will be almost \$500,000. This may knock out these two structures—one in Franklin and the other in Oil City.

The county authorities are also reprimanded for not being more thorough in their work of inspecting the Commissioners' accounts.

The Morning Press is now installed in its fine new building. The growth of that paper has been phenomenal, and we doubt if there is a town in the state, of the size of Bloomsburg that can boast of as newsy a sheet.

The business office on the first floor is handsomely finished, and is as nice as many a bank. The building is conveniently arranged, and fitted up with every modern convenience. We congratulate our contemporary upon their evident prosperity, and commend them for their enterprise.

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