

The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXVI.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1893.

NO. 37.

SCHOOL REPORT

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Supt. Gramley's Educational Report of Centre County for the Year Ending June 5th, 1893.

The report of the schools of this county I submit will be brief, as only a part of the school year came under my supervision. My thanks are due the retiring Superintendent, Mr. D. O. Eters, for suggestions given me in my official duties. It is to be regretted that our county covers so large a territory—the largest in the state—that it is impossible for a superintendent to accomplish much by way of supervision, being able to make but one or at most two visits to each school in a year.

No enthusiastic spirit has been shown to improve school grounds by way of fencing, planting trees, etc. While a few districts are moved to a just sense of duty in this respect, too many utterly neglect this work, by providing no grounds at all, or locating the houses on the edge of some forest, where private property in the form of a large uncultivated domain, is supposed to answer the purposes of the playground. Many out-houses are in a bad condition, but recent legislation will, no doubt, bring about much needed improvement.

We still have a number of poor houses, but they are fast disappearing, and giving way to a popular demand for better facilities. In a number of instances I have noticed that teachers succeeded in arousing an interest on the part of patrons by way of decorating the school rooms, and thereby make school life home-like. Some have shown taste in this direction that is highly creditable. Do we err when we say that beautifully decorated school rooms are indicative of good discipline and successful teaching?

Seven new houses were built during the year. Space forbids to give details of each one; all are good buildings, furnished with improved seats and desks. The house in Miles township is an elegant two-story brick building, containing four rooms, a model of convenience and comfort, and certainly reflects great credit upon the directors under whose supervision it was erected.

Credit must be given to some of our boards, for the interest shown in furnishing school rooms with valuable apparatus; many more boards should do likewise, but a suggestion kindly given may not be amiss. Buy the needed apparatus at fair prices, but give no audience to agents who come asking exorbitant figures for ordinary material, and whose sole object is to deplete your treasury and replenish their own purses accordingly; also require your teachers to use the apparatus furnished.

The increased state appropriation has stimulated the directors in eight districts to increase the teachers salaries, while in eleven the term was made longer, but the tax rate of quite a number of districts was diminished, on account of the increased liberality of the state, thus necessitating a misapplication of the appropriation.

The progress of the schools in a number of districts has been hindered by a lack of books, and by irregular attendance, but a panacea for the former evil has been furnished us by our late legislature; the latter evil still confronts us, and will so continue, until parents comprehend the importance of regular attendance, and will not, on the slightest pretext, allow the children to remain out of school for days at a time, and thus permit them to acquire careless habits.

Columbus Day, Friday, October 21, was the great day for the children of our county. In many of the rural towns, the schools, patrons, members of the G. A. R., and other civic organizations, celebrated the occasion in an appropriate manner. Bellefonte and Philipsburg each had over one thousand children in procession every day carrying the national flag.

Our Teachers' Institute was held in Bellefonte, Dec. 29-30, and was unusually well attended by teachers, directors and citizens. The exercises were interesting and practical. Those in attendance pronounced it one of the best Institutes ever held in the county. Instruction was given by Supt. James M. Coughlin, Maj. James M. Lee, Prof. J. G. Anderson, Gen. Jas. A. Beaver, Gen. D. H. Hastings, D. F. Fortney, and Rev. W. E. Fischer. The evening entertainments consisted of lectures by Supt. Coughlin, Maj. Lee and John R. Clarke, and a musical and elocutionary entertainment by "The Schuman Concert Company." On Thursday—Directors' Day—a very large number of directors assembled in the Bellefonte High School Building and were addressed by Maj. Lee, Prof. Anderson and D. F. Fortney, Esq.

Local institutes were held in a number of districts, and, as a rule, were

well attended. This educational feature is slowly developing, but will ultimately become a potent element for good.

While a majority of our teachers realize the importance of special preparation for school work, and are availing themselves of every opportunity to increase their usefulness, we still have too many who simply "keep" school—who have no love for the work and should not be employed.

For the improvement of our schools I would offer the following SUGGESTIONS:

1. More professional study by teachers.
2. Parents and directors, visit your schools.
3. Exercise more care in selecting teachers.
4. Abolish the night "spelling school."
5. Place more dictionaries in the schools, and have the pupils taught to use them.
6. Comply with the law regarding the study of physiology and hygiene in the schools.

I desire to acknowledge my appreciation of the help received on the part of teachers, directors and the press of the county, in the performance of my official work. I also tender my sincere thanks to the Department of Public Instruction for prompt advice and favors received.

C. L. GRAMLEY,
Co Supt.

A Serious Runaway.

On last Thursday Mr. E. H. Carr, of Milesburg, died at the home of John Bilger, in Spring township, from injuries received in a runaway at that place on Tuesday evening. Mr. Carr was accompanied by another gentleman when the accident occurred. The team became unmanageable and ran into a ditch where they fell, and the buggy turned over them. Mr. Carr's injuries consisted of several ribs being dislocated and a stick piercing his lung. He was about 60 years of age and one of Milesburg's leading and most respected citizens.

Nominated for Judge.

General Benjamin F. Fisher was on Friday informed of his nomination by the Bucks county Republican Convention as Judge in the Seventh judicial district by a committee of three, who came down for that purpose. Gen. Fisher was formerly of this valley. He was a son of the well-known Reformed minister, Rev. P. S. Fisher, of Boalsburg. The General is a brother of Dr. Fisher of Zion, one of our prominent physicians.

Gives the Law.

The Lewistown Gazette, of last week lays down the law for the information of the dummies in the town council of that town; it justly cautions the borough dads against going beyond their authority as the people will fall back upon their rights as against any illegal actions of that illustrious body. It is a good thing to have a fearless newspaper to guard the people's interests; it makes the jades wince, when they find an obstacle to wrongs and impositions.

The Trouble at an End.

The trouble between miners and operators in the Clearfield region is at an end, the miners agreeing to accept monthly pay as long as the present stringency lasts. A number of mines that were closed started work last week.

The Clearfield region as well as the Centre county mining region has experienced dull times for three years, and it is gratifying to learn that a new trouble has been averted, which would have made bad things worse.

Automatic Signals.

The Pennsylvania railroad company have formally adopted what is known as the automatic electro-pneumatic signal on the entire system. This device is controlled by the acting of the trains on the rails and is so arranged that the signal is given when a train is quite a long distance from any point of danger.

Kill Him at the Start.

When a man playfully points a pistol or gun at you, knock him down; don't stop to inquire whether it is loaded or not; knock him down. Don't be particular what you knock him down with, only see that he is thoroughly knocked down, if a coroner's inquest must be held, let it be on the other fellow—he won't be missed.

Starting a Boom for Hastings.

The boom for Hastings for governor was inaugurated in Chester by the organization of the "Daniel H. Hastings Republican Club." There was a large attendance of enthusiastic Republicans. A committee of five was appointed to tender a reception to General Hastings in the near future.

CAPITOL GOSSIP

WEAK KNEED DEMOCRATS ADVISING DELAY.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Capitol.—Committees at Work.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—One hundred years ago today the corner stone of a building which many eminent foreigners have pronounced to be the most beautiful and imposing structure in the world was laid in this city in the presence of a few hundred people. That building was the Capitol, and today a mighty host estimated at from 150,000 to 200,000 people assembled around the statue of George Washington, which sits majestically facing the rising sun upon the plateau east of the Capitol, to do honor to the centennial anniversary of that momentous occasion. Congress made the day a legal holiday and attended in a body. President Cleveland as chairman of ceremonies made a short speech in his happiest vein, introducing Hon. William Wirt Henry, of Virginia, a descendant of Patrick Henry, whose oration was an epoch of patriotism entirely worthy of the occasion; Vice President Stevenson spoke for the Senate; Speaker Crisp for the House and Justice Brown of the Supreme Court, for the Judiciary. A trained chorus of 1500 voices sang patriotic songs, the last of which—"America"—was joined in by the entire audience, and it was truly sublime.

There is no material change in the silver situation in the Senate. Senator Vorhees has given notice that he will shortly try to force a vote by prolonging the sessions. Meanwhile the Senators will continue to talk for and against repeal.

The attempt of some of the weak-kneed Democrats in the House—fortunately for the future of the party they are few in number,—who fear the wrath of the Republicans and advise delay whenever a move is made towards carrying out the promises of the Democratic national platform, to have the impression go out, if they do not openly charge, that the House committee on election of President and Vice President and Representatives in Congress, in deciding to report the Tucker bill for the repeal of the federal election laws, had not treated the chairman of that committee—Representative Fitch, of N. Y., who is now at the bedside of his mother who is dangerously ill, with proper courtesy. Here are the facts: Mr. Fitch was anxious to get the bill reported to the House at the earliest moment, and when he was called away from Washington by his mother's illness he went to Speaker Crisp and requested him to send for Representative Tucker, of Virginia, the second Democrat on the committee, and to ask him to see that there was no delay in getting the bill before the House. This the Speaker did, and from that time until now, Mr. Tucker, as acting chairman of the committee, has had the advice of Speaker Crisp upon his every act, and in addition he has had telegrams from Mr. Fitch telling him to push things. That the bill is not already before the House is not the fault of the committee, but of the absent democrats. If the House is to do anything promptly a quorum of democrats must be in their seats every day, and, in view of the large democratic majority, it ought not to be difficult to keep them there. The republicans have shown that they propose taking advantage to the utmost of the too liberal rules of the House to block legislation whenever there is not a quorum of democrats on the floor. The report that President Cleveland was encouraging democrats to stay away from the House in order to prevent this bill being taken up is a villainous libel brought out solely for the purpose of creating dissension in democratic ranks.

Representative Wilson, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, says lots of nonsense is being talked about the intentions of that committee and about manufacturers being afraid to continue at work lest the new tariff should ruin them etc. Now, as a matter of fact, any manufacturer can ascertain by addressing chairman Wilson or any democratic member of the committee—the republicans on the committee also know it, but they would be tempted in order to make political capital to suppress or distort the facts—that the committee proposes to give ample time to every industry before the new tariff goes into effect for every manufacturer to dispose of stock on hand and to make his arrangements to meet the new and lowered duties. The democrats have no desire to ruin anybody; their aim is to make a tariff that will confer the greatest number, and in doing so it will, of course, be necessary to make such changes as will wipe out for the future the enormous profits which have

been legislated into the pockets of certain favored classes of manufacturers at the expense of the people. The public hearings on the tariff will close this week, and the democratic members of the committee will then devote their whole time to the preparation of the bill.

DENS OF COPPER HEADS.

Two Weird and Startling Stories From Snyder County.

The Middleburg Post, last week, furnishes the following weird and startling stories, which we give in full for the benefit of our readers. It says: On Saturday, while Lew Troup was up on Shade mountain hunting foxes he had a thrilling adventure in a den of copper-heads. He was coming along what is known as the "old road" when he discovered one of the snakes in front of him. Seizing a stone he crushed it. About this time he discovered another one and killed it. Then seeing the third he stepped aside to get a stone when his hand almost touched another of the reptiles that lay coiled near the stone. This was too much for his nerve and he began to shoot. At the first report of the gun the reptiles began to move off, and although he had a breech-loading shot gun he could not shoot as rapidly as he wished as the shells were brass and would stick in his gun after it got hot. He succeeded, however, in killing seven more, some of which were as thick as his arm, and how many got away he could not tell but he estimated them over a dozen. For several years this den has been known to hunters, but those best acquainted with it care the least to pay it a visit.

Last Friday, as J. D. Wetzel of Beavertown, was on his way to the mountain to chop wood, he suddenly found himself in the midst of a den of copper-head snakes, and at once proceeded with all vigor to decimate their number, succeeding so well that in a few minutes he had slain sixty of the reptiles. Upon his return home he related his adventure whereupon some of his townsmen suspected that he was drawing the "long bow" on them, whereupon he challenged them to accompany him to the spot and he would convince them of the truth of his statement. W. A. Specht accepted the challenge and accompanied him, and to his astonishment found the statement correct to the letter, for he found eighteen large and forty-two half-grown copper-heads dead within a very narrow space of ground.

Reduced Rates to Washington via P. E. R.

The hundredth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the United States Capitol will be celebrated at Washington on Monday, September 18th, with ceremonies appropriate for an occasion so nationally momentous. Patriotic and historic orations will be delivered by well-known speakers and statesmen, and it is intended to have other fitting tributes paid to this national commemoration.

That people from other cities and towns may attend the celebration, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from all points on its system east of Pittsburgh and Erie, except the Downingtown and Lancaster branch, at one and a third fares, which is a considerable reduction. The tickets will be sold by the company's agents on September 18th, 17th, and 18th, good going only on those dates and for return passage until the 21st of the month, which will permit of quite a little visit in the nation's capitol.

Got Caught.

Wm. Bolich, a farmer residing near Tylersville, was week before last approached by a well-dressed, smooth-tongued gentleman who wanted to buy a farm. The fellow soon had the old man interested in a game of cards in which he (Bolich) won \$5,000. But the money could not be paid over until \$1,000 was deposited in the hands of the stranger as a guarantee of good faith. He did so and was handed a box that was to contain the prize. After the stranger had left a son of Bolich returned home, opened the box and found it to contain a lot of bark from a tree on the farm of Mr. Bolich. Served him right. Bolich evidently did not subscribe for a paper or affairs would have turned out otherwise. We'll bet a year's subscription to a flip on that.

No Water Works.

Millinburg, our neighboring town, down the road, in Union county, held an election on the question of building water works for the town. The majority was greatly in favor of the scheme, but afterwards it was learned that according to the law they cannot levy sufficient tax to raise the required amount to build the water works, and an opportunity now awaits a private corporation to provide that town with a sufficient water system.

STATE TICKET

THE DEMOCRACY MAKES AN NOMINATION.

Thompson the Nominee for Supreme Bench and Osburn for State Treasurer.—The Convention Harmonious.

The standard bearers of the Pennsylvania Democracy in the approaching campaign were selected Tuesday by the state Democratic convention held at Harrisburg. They are Samuel Gustine Thompson, of Philadelphia, the unanimous choice of the party for justice of the supreme court, and Frank C. Osburn, of Sewickley, who has been named for state treasurer. The platform is a concise declaration of principles worthy of the most earnest consideration of every voter.

The convention was held in the opera house and was a surprise in the sense that it was not entirely lifeless and devoid of interest. The arrangements for the comfort of the delegates, newspaper correspondents and spectators were looked after by Secretary Nead, of the state committee, a guarantee that all were comfortable and contented. There was a lack of decorations in the interior of the hall, but the Harrisburg band was present and gave life to the occasion by its rendition of a number of inspiring airs.

The convention was called for twelve o'clock, but it was twenty minutes later when State Chairman Wright rapped for order. The hall was comfortably filled, with but few conspicuous party leaders in the assemblage.

At one o'clock the convention took a recess of one hour and it was long after two o'clock before the convention reassembled for the second time.

The committee on permanent organization reported the name of ex-Congressman E. P. Gillespie, of Mercer, for permanent chairman, and recommended the retention of the temporary secretaries and other officers. Revised rules and platform was adopted and the convention proceeded to the selection of a candidate for state treasurer. Walter W. Patrick, of Pittsburg, was named by 'Squire Cornelius O'Donnell of that city and Frank C. Osburn by Tim O'Leary. The nomination of Patrick was seconded by an eloquent young delegate from Westmoreland, and that of Osburn by a half dozen or more delegates from various parts of the state. The roll of delegates was called by counted on the vote for this nomination.

The nomination was made unanimously on motion of County Chairman Brennan.

Judge Thompson's name was placed in nomination for the supreme bench by Attorney General Hensel and seconded by James M. Beck, of Philadelphia. There being no other candidates named, the nomination was made by acclamation. Mr. Osburn was introduced to the convention by Chairman Gillespie. He made a brief speech, returning his thanks for the honor conferred upon him and pledging himself to make an aggressive canvass.

The chair appointed Messrs. Hensel, of Lancaster; Beck and Wilhere, of Philadelphia; James L. Lenahan, of Wilkesbarre, and John J. Fahey, of Scranton, a committee to inform Justice Thompson of his nomination. There being no further business before the convention it was declared adjourned sine die.

The delegates and visiting spectators were in a hurry to leave the city and had nearly all disappeared at an early hour.

A Million Friends.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, and not less than one million people have found just such a friend in Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs, and Colds.—If you have never used this Great Cough Medicine, one trial will convince you that it has wonderful curative powers in all diseases of Throat, Chest and Lungs. Each bottle is guaranteed to do all that is claimed or money will be refunded. Trial bottles free at J. D. Murray's Drug Store. Large bottles 50c. and \$1.00.

Purchased the Estate.

At the real estate sale of John Sholl, dec'd., held in Miles township last week, the real estate of said deceased comprising three tracts were purchased by Dr. G. W. Hosterman for \$7200.

Blew Down Tents.

Friday night's rain storm blew down about a dozen tents on the picnic ground. They were not occupied at the time, fortunately.

Coal for Sale.

A car load of soft coal, for sale, at a reduced price, for cash.

KURTZ & SON.

—The REPORTER gives you all the news—local and general—only \$1.50 per year in advance.

IN OTHER COUNTIES.

Items of Interest Clipped and Condensed from our Exchanges.

The creditors of G. W. Delamater, of Meadville, will get \$23,093.40.

About twenty-five tons of pure lead has been dug from the New Galena mines in Berks county.

Tuesday 119,000 children resumed their studies in the public schools of Philadelphia, when they reopened for the fall term.

A. J. Meyers, of Big Spring, Cumberland county, had twenty-eight out of thirty sheep killed by lightning Thursday evening last.

Scranton choral union, which won the singing contest at the World's Fair, was welcomed by 20,000 people upon its arrival home.

Not caring to live when his wife was dead, Augustus Cross, of Rittersville, near Allentown, ate a pint of Paris green and hanged himself in the cellar.

The storm of Friday last was particularly heavy in and about Williamsport. The rain fell in torrents and the lightning struck several buildings do considerable damage.

George Creamer, sexton of St. James P. E. church, Lancaster, had an attack of hiccoughs which continued without any interruption for twelve days. From a stalwart man he was reduced to a mere skeleton. He is now recovering.

A red elm tree that stands in front of the premises of Jacob Morlock, in Salona, Clinton county, measures fifteen feet in circumference, four feet from the ground, the tree is thought to be considerably over one hundred years old.

Friday afternoon Herman Smith, of Williamsport, while working in a planing mill met with an accident by which his right arm was so badly hurt that its amputation between the wrist and elbow was found to be necessary.

Lewis Fisher, a young man formerly of Frederick, Md., was up before the Carlisle court on a charge of surety of the peace and wife-beating, and the circumstances were so revolting that he was convicted at once and sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary and one year in jail.

Max Valintz, of Nanticoke, Luzerne county, sent money and a wedding gown to Poland to his fiancée so that she could come to this country and marry him. When she arrived she refused to become his wife and was arrested and held for court for receiving money under false pretense.

The timber land belonging to the Stephen Girard estate in Girard county, owned by the city of Philadelphia, comprises 11,000 acres. This tract is the most valuable to the acre of any hemlock land in Pennsylvania. None of the timber can be cut, however, and the dense forest is full of wild game. On one acre of the land State Botanist Rothrock found 9,600,000 feet of marketable pine.

Plans to Stop Illegal Fishing.

Fred W. Ebel, of Harrisburg, the fish commissioner, has sent notices to the sheriffs of the different counties of the State, requesting them to give their attention to illegal fishing in the streams of the Commonwealth. By the notice the sheriff is required to issue a proclamation against unlawful fishing. The sheriff is also required to destroy all dams, nets and baskets, which have been placed in the fishing streams in defiance of the law by fishermen. The sheriffs and their deputies are instructed to proceed at once, and any interference is punishable with a \$50 fine.

An Over-Cautious School Marm.

It is related of an Irwin school marm, who, having an inordinate dread of contagious diseases, sent a little girl home because she said her mother was sick and had symptoms of something alarming. The next day the girl presented herself at school with her finger in her mouth and her little bonnet swinging by the string and timidly said, "We've got a little baby at our house, but mamma told me to tell you it isn't catching." The teacher blushed slightly and said she was glad, and told the pupil to take her seat.—Greensburg Democrat.

An Important Land Case.

An important case, involving the right and title to eleven thousand acres of land in Snow Shoe township, this county, was on trial all last week before Judge Metzgar at Bellefonte, and will be continued this week. The land was originally covered with timber, and later was found to contain valuable coal deposits. The contention for ownership is between the Lehigh Valley company and J. L. Long, of Howard, and John Liggett, of Beech Creek.

—REPORTER only \$1.50 per year.