



Centre County's Finances.

With this issue of the Reporter, as well as in the other county papers, will be found the annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of Centre county for the year ending January 1, 1901. It is one of the most careful and explicit financial statements published by any board of County Commissioners. This statement requires a very great deal of time and labor on the part of the commissioners' clerk, who has charge of the compilation of these accounts. It is a source of great satisfaction however, to a careful and conscientious board of commissioners, to know and feel that all fair minded tax payers are appreciative of a wise and careful expenditure of the public money. Every taxable in the county is earnestly requested to examine this statement, and compare it with the receipts and expenditures of the former boards. Since so large a number of figures are confusing to many people, it is our purpose to point out the more important features and direct attention particularly to a comparison of the receipts and expenditures of the past year with that of 1899.

We first desire to call attention to the matter of unsettled tax duplicates. On January 1, 1900, when the present board was sworn into office, there were 31 tax duplicates unsettled back of the year 1898, representing 13 townships and boroughs. This means that tax payers in all of the other 21 townships and boroughs in the county were not only advancing the money to pay the proportionate shares of the expenditures of the county, that should have been borne by these 13 districts, but were actually paying the interest on short loans to pay the current expenses of the county when they had outstanding taxes long over due. This feature of the government of the affairs of the county seemed to the present board to be an imposition upon those tax-payers in the districts where prompt collection was made, and they immediately demanded of collectors that these old duplicates be settled. By comparison, it will be found that all duplicates for 1894, 1895 and 1896 have been settled, two for 1897 and six for 1898 remaining unsettled, making a total of eight duplicates back of 1899, to 31 last year back of 1898. It might be well to state here as a matter of warning to taxpayers and collectors, that it is the purpose of this board to have no duplicates older than two years. The county is a business corporation and should be conducted on business principle, and it is to the interest of all taxpayers to have their taxes collected within reasonable time. The outstanding taxes on Jan. 1, 1900 amounted to \$22,745.71 as against \$17,873.77, Jan. 1, 1901. On the taxes settled for during the past year, the exonerations were unusually high for two reasons, viz. first, on account of so many very old duplicates being unsettled, and second on account of the triennial assessment which was made in the fall of 1897 for the year 1898. This assessment having been in the fall of the year, many tenants who were regularly assessed in a district had moved away from that district into another township or borough before the taxes were due.

The total expenditures for 1899 were \$64,023.76 as against \$62,502.04 for 1900. Included in the expenditures for 1900 will be found by reference to the statement \$3,917.96 old bills from previous years, also a payment of \$3,917.96 old bills from previous years, also a payment of \$3,977.44 on outstanding notes against the county, which makes the actual expenditures for 1900 \$54,606.64, which added to \$2,774.30 outstanding bills and fees for 1900 makes the expenses of the county for the past year \$57,380.94, which includes improvements in the way of office furniture, repairs, county bridges, and the extra fall triennial assessment.

Examinations of the assets and liabilities will show that on Jan. 1, 1900 the total assets were \$37,276.48 and the total liabilities \$13,047.36, making assets in excess of liabilities \$24,229.12. In the items of liabilities will be found estimated exonerations on outstanding taxes, \$500, which was not a fair estimate of exonerations, in as much as the outstanding taxes were much more at that time than they were Jan. 1, 1901; yet the present board places its estimate on the same item at \$1000. Also the item of estimated commissions on outstanding taxes, Jan. 1, 1900, was \$112, which according to their own figures should have been over \$1000. The estimated commissions Jan. 1, 1901 are \$800. Yet taking this comparison, the present board has \$33,464.59 assets, and liabilities \$9,226.40, a reduction in liabilities of almost \$4000, making the assets in excess of liabilities \$24,238.19.

The total number of days served in the office by the present commissioners for the year 1901 is 812, while that of the former board for 1899-1900 was 788, making the time of the former 24 days more than that of the latter, or \$84 more expense on commissioners' time. But during the year 1899, the expense of copying assessment books, registration books, and duplicates amounted to \$328.82, while in 1900 the commissioners did all this work without extra expense to the county, excepting \$10. Now \$84 gained on commissioner's time added to \$10 for copying work, makes a total of \$94, which subtracted from \$329.82 leaves a saving to the county in actual dollars and cents of \$235.82.

The above comparisons certainly make a most complimentary showing of the receipts and expenditures of our Democratic board of commissioners. The Reporter is satisfied that never before in the history of the county have the duties of the commissioners' office been more wisely and judiciously administered. Carefully, conscientiously, and critically they scrutinize every item of expense and every official act. The Reporter most heartily congratulates Daniel Heckman, Philip H. Meyer and Abram V. Miller, the present board of commissioners upon making such a satisfactory record, and the taxpayers deserve equal credit for electing such men to official positions.

We are told now by the administration organs not only that the resolution of Congress recognizing the independence of Cuba was a mistake, but that it is not binding anyway; it is not a formal treaty, but only a promise to the world in general, which nobody can enforce.

This is quite true, if a nation has no obligations except those it can be compelled to perform. We can annex Cuba and no power will interfere, any more than the rest of the world has interfered with Great Britain's annexation of the Transvaal. But is there no such thing as a national conscience to be considered? It is not only the wrong to Cuba, it is the wrong to the United States that makes this proposition so infamous. A man who begins to rob and cheat is likely to go from bad to worse, unless brought up by a sharp turn, and the loss of national character is even more rapid. It is not three years since we went to war in behalf of Cuban independence, and already we are trying to find an excuse for keeping Cuba for ourselves.

COURT NEWS.

Second Week of Court Adjourned Wednesday Afternoon.

As stated in the last issue of the Reporter the case of Bible vs. the Boro' of Centre Hall, went to trial on Thursday morning. This action was an appeal from the decision of a Justice on a suit brought by the Misses Bible against the Borough of Centre Hall to recover rent due and damages on a contract entered into by said borough. In the fall of 1897 the boro' of Centre Hall leased the water on the lands of the plaintiffs, agreeing to put in certain pipes, a reservoir and pay an annual rental of \$50.00 per year for a term of 99 years, after which time the said boro' was to pay \$75.00 per year perpetually. After the boro' had paid two years rental they discovered that the spring they were using was not located on the lands of the plaintiffs and they refused to pay the remaining rental. After the evidence on the part of the plaintiffs closed the defense offered to prove that they were misled by statements of the reputed agent of the plaintiffs. The court refused to sustain their offer and a verdict was taken in favor of the plaintiffs in the sum of \$149.25. The court granted a motion for a new trial, returnable at March argument court. This was done in order that the question of law involved might be more fully examined.

The second week of January court convened at 9:30 Monday morning, Hon. John G. Love presiding. On account of the heavy snow many of the jurors were delayed and the entire morning was taken up in presenting motions and petitions and calling over the trial list. The following cases were noted for settlement and continuance:

Rose Sternberg Lyon vs. Gustavus Lyon. Trespass. Continued.

Kate A. Miller, use of, vs. James Gowland. Judgment opened. Continued.

John Stoner vs. W. E. Smith, et al. Ejectment. Settled.

Flora O. Bairfoot vs. Christian Shaver, et al. Ejectment. Settled.

Wm. I. Harvey vs. Thos. I. Lucas Replevin. Continued.

Robert Kinkead vs. Rosa L. Pierce. Assumpsit. Continued.

Nittany Valley Railroad Co. vs. Empire Steel and Iron Co. Assumpsit. Continued.

A. D. Potts vs. A. McCoy, et al. Judgment opened. Continued.

D. J. Tressler vs. Sarah Tressler. Divorce. Discontinued.

Henry Wahlfort vs. Nathan Hough. Trespass. Settled.

John Reese, et al., vs. Peter Kelley. Ejectment. Settled.

Hench & Drumgold vs. Nathan Hough. Judgment opened. Settled.

The case of the Moshannon Banking Co. vs. John Ransdale's executors, was called on Monday afternoon and went to the jury Tuesday noon. This is an action on a note for \$5,500. The defense claim that the note in question was a forgery. Nearly all of Monday afternoon was occupied by the testimony of Geo. W. Wood, a handwriting expert from Pittsburg. The testimony of this expert was exceedingly interesting and being a novelty in the court attracted quite a little attention. The case was ably argued by counsel for both sides. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$9,002.50.

David Robb vs. J. I. Wagner et al. was called for trial Tuesday afternoon and closed Wednesday morning. This action was brought against the supervisor of Liberty township for damages caused by extending the width of a public road to the legal width of thirty feet. Verdict for the defendants.

In the case of the Courtland Wagon Co. vs. L. C. Bullock, Jr., the defendant confessed judgment in open court for \$325.00 and record costs.

The only case remaining open for trial was that of R. J. Walker vs. Isaac Reese et al., which was continued on account of the absence of several important witnesses.

Court adjourned Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Fire at Snow Shoe.

The large wholesale and retail store of T. B. Buddinger at Snow Shoe was destroyed by fire Tuesday night. The loss on stock and building is estimated at \$75,000; insurance, \$25,000.

In the same building was the Commercial telephone exchange. Loss, \$500; no insurance.

The fixtures of the Snow Shoe post-office were also destroyed.

The entire loss foots up \$100,000.

During the day the furnace in the cellar set the building on fire, but the flames were quickly extinguished. It is supposed that a spark of fire escaped notice, and that during the night it was fanned into flames.

No Pictures This Week.

Photographer Smith will not be at his Centre Hall gallery this week.

Mrs. Emma Yarnell.

Mrs. Emma Yarnell, formerly of Hecla, but who recently made her home with her daughter, in Salona, died at the Lock Haven hospital where she had gone for treatment. Her age was sixty-three years. The deceased was a widowed lady, her husband having been killed several years ago by a train striking him at Hecla. She is survived by George, of Zion; William, of Buffalo Run; Oliver, of Hecla; Irvin, of Hubbersburg; Mrs. George Whiting, Myrtle, Susan and Delmont, Salona; Mrs. Sallie Ozden, Clearfield, and Ambrose, Johnsonburg. Another married daughter named Ida, resides at Jacksonville. She is also survived by two brothers—Frederick Mantel, of Beech Creek, and Hope, of Iowa.

A Caroline Islands Legend.

The Caroline Islands group includes besides coral islands five mountainous islands of basaltic formation, beautiful and fertile with rivers and springs.

Among the many queer legends of these children of the Pacific there is none more highly improbable than their theory as to the origin of these islands and their inhabitants. They think they themselves were very strong in the water—in fact, they lived in it.

The story goes that a woman and her children were floating around on the reef when a man appeared from the west with a basket of soil on his shoulders. He had started out to make an island with a mountain on it. One of the children cried out to him, "Give us a little soil to make a place for our mother to rest, for she is very weak and cannot swim." He took out a handful of the earth and threw it down, making an island. As the man was going on his way over the water the son slyly made a hole in the basket, so as he proceeded on his way he left a trail of land behind. Suddenly he became conscious that the basket seemed light, and, looking around, he saw the land. In his anger he turned about and trod upon it, and thus the islands were formed.

Insisted on a Change.

The spick and span young officer who calmly takes command over veterans grown "gray in battle and victory" is sometimes an amusing person, particularly if a sense of his own importance is unduly developed.

On one occasion word was received in various South African camps that on such and such a morning every man in Officer —'s army must change his shirt.

The Imperial Light horse, who formed part of the command, had only one shirt apiece, and that was on their backs. So a messenger was dispatched to explain. But the honorable and gallant officer, fresh from Sandhurst, knew his business.

"If the men of the Imperial Light horse have not got a second shirt," said he firmly, "let them change shirts with each other. My orders are imperative."

And There He Was.

"Yes," he said, "I think a man owes it to himself to choose a wife who can do housework. If necessary. Of course I wouldn't want my wife to work in the kitchen, but she ought to be able to do so. One never can tell what may happen. Girls sometimes leave suddenly, and fortunes are occasionally swept away. In my opinion, a girl does herself just as much honor in learning to do housework as in learning to play the piano or in studying 'Omar Khayyam,' and—"

"Oh, Mr. Spoodlekins," she cried, "excuse me for interrupting you, but such a funny thing happened this afternoon I dropped the dishcloth and said to myself, 'There, I know somebody will come this evening! And here you are!'"—Chicago Times-Herald.

Rarity of a Dread of Death.

Sir Lyon Playfair, who represented the University of Edinburgh for 17 years, naturally came in contact with the most eminent men of England, and he put this question to most of them, "Did you in your extensive practice ever know a patient who was afraid to die?" With two exceptions, it seems, they answered "No." One of these exceptions was Sir Benjamin Brodie, who said he had seen one case. The other was Sir Robert Christison, who had seen one case, that of a girl of bad character who had a sudden accident.—Health.

The Discovery of Iron.

Teacher—Sammy, can you tell me where and how iron was first discovered?

Sammy—I can't tell you just where, sir, but I think I know how it was discovered.

Teacher—Well, Sammy, what is your information on that point?

Sammy—I heard pa say the other day that they smelt it.

The Bishop Knew Him.

A story current about the bishop of London represents him as a bored listener to a windy speech. Turning to a fellow sufferer, he said, "Do you know that speaker?"

"No," was the answer.

"I do," said the bishop. "He speaks under many aliases, but his name is Thomas Rot."—London News.

Sunday night two inches of snow fell which patched up the sledding at its weak points. Many of the roads are drifted, which makes traveling less rapid than is often desired by both driver and steed.

WILLIAM ROSS.

A Son of J. Hale Ross, of Linden Hall, Dead III but a Brief Time.

William Ross, of Linden Hall, aged fifteen years, is dead. The funeral took place Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, interment being at Boalsburg.

This youth was in excellent health and spirits up to within less than a week of his death. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hale Ross, of Linden Hall, and enjoyed the comforts of a good home. Tuesday prior to his death, when he was called for the noon meal, he remarked that he would rather sleep than eat, and in a short time thereafter he became unconscious, and never again grew conscious of his surroundings. Part of the time he was delirious. Saturday night at twelve o'clock death came; the mortal part of him grew stiff and cold; the once promising youth was a corpse.

The disease that ended the life so unexpectedly in symptoms was similar to spinal meningitis. All that his attending physician could do did not give relief.

The parents are heartbroken for they had laid great store in this son, who was an obedient, industrious and intelligent lad.

As stated above the funeral took place at Boalsburg, Rev. G. W. Leshner, of the Lutheran church, with which the Ross family is connected officiating. The attendance at these ceremonies was quite large, the deceased being popular with both young and old.

The community extends its sympathy to the bereaved family, which consists of father and mother and seven children.

JACKSON LIMBERT.

A Man Prominent in His Locality Died at Madisonburg.

Last Thursday, Jan. 31, 1901, Mr. Henry Jackson Limbert, of Madisonburg, passed from this "vale of tears" to rest, after a lingering illness of gout. He suffered intense pain at times, but having implicit faith in his creator, bore his suffering manfully. The funeral took place on Sunday morning from his late home in Madisonburg. The following is a brief sketch of his career:

Henry Jackson Limbert, who is properly ranked as one of the self-made men of Centre county, began his career at the foot of the ladder in life without other resources than his own indomitable will and steady plodding industry.

From an humble position he had risen to that of one of the representative men of a more than ordinary intelligent community. He was born Aug. 10, 1834, four miles west of McKees Falls, Pa., in what is now Snyder Co., but what was then Union Co. Died Jan. 31, 1901, making his age 66 years, 6 months and 21 days. His parents were John and Catherine Wise Limbert. H. J. Limbert was the oldest of seven children. His surviving brothers and sisters are Mrs. A. Small, Rebersburg; John Limbert, Dauphin Co., Pa.; Frederick, of Aaronsburg; Benjamin, a farmer of Gregg Township; Catherine Frank, Madisonburg, and Samuel Limbert, Lock Haven.

Our subject had received a liberal German education until he was 13 years old, when he was obliged to launch out for himself. He began by working for clothes and board the first year; received \$36 the second, \$48 the third and \$60 the fourth. He then began learning the carpenter trade with his father, with whom he came to Madisonburg, and when he had mastered the trade he began work for John B. Shaffer, and served as an assistant carpenter under different men until 1863, when he resolved to engage in business for himself, and was very successful in his undertaking until the fall of 1876, often employing as many as fourteen men, and in the summer of 1898 paying as much as \$2500 for wages.

In 1877 he began farming, which he continued until 1892, when he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits as partner of Benjamin Roush, but four years later returned to his farm, where he remained until last spring, when he moved to the place where he died.

The following children survive him: J. Albert, of Seneca Co., Ohio; Harvey, of Kreamerville; J. Daniel, of Madisonburg; Geo. E., Reformed minister of Danville, Pa.; William H., of Rebersburg, and Anna, at home.

He was a man of the strictest integrity and honor, was able to look the world into the face with a clear conscience, was a devout christian and a consistent member of the Reformed church.

JOEL BARNER.

Joel Barner, died at his home near Jacksonville, from the effects of apoplexy. He was a veteran of the late war and was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg. A wife and family of six sons and two daughters survive.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

See Grant Hoover, Bellefonte, before you insure.

D. C. Krebs & Bro., merchants at Pine Grove Mills, will be succeeded in business by H. W. Frantz.

The sledding to Bellefonte last week was perfect, and a number of sledding parties came this way to spend an evening.

It is the practice of those who are wise to take both a shovel and axe with them when going on the roads these days.

Samuel S. Kaup, of Boalsburg, and Miss Mary Leshner, of Renova, will be married at the home of the bride February 28, at 8 p. m.

The death list this week is unusually large. Young and old and middle aged have been called away since the last issue of the Reporter.

A party of colored ladies and gentlemen from Bellefonte, took supper at the Old Fort hotel Tuesday night, and were pleased with the management of Landlord Shaffer.

The heavy snow and drifted roads interferes greatly with gathering up stock for shipping to the east, consequently very few have been sent out during the past few weeks.

The Reporter's machinery has been running at high speed all week, and if the readers find the Reporter itself a little "short" they will know it is on account of the press of work.

A. J. Swartz and Henry Twitmier conducted a very successful musical convention at Pleasant Gap last week, closing with concerts Friday and Saturday nights. Over \$100 was realized.

George Rowe, farmer on the Samuel Bruss farm east of town, is delighted with the arrival of a little daughter in his family, who is doing well and growing. The parents think there is nothing sweeter than this particular baby.

See the card of the Haag House, Bellefonte, in another column. The Haag House, under Mr. Newemer, is an excellent stopping place. If you have never stopped there before, do so and prove the assertion.

Dr. U. S. Grant Keller, of Warren, Ill., made a visit to his former home at Boalsburg, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Keller, live. Dr. Keller's wife's mother, Mrs. Hamilton, died at Washington, D. C.

The musical convention opening at Linden Hall Monday evening will close with two concerts, Thursday and Friday evenings. Linden Hall always has good conventions, and this one will be up to the standard.

Prof. H. W. Morris, of Rebersburg, contemplates teaching a summer Normal Academic term of school at Rebersburg, beginning Monday, April 8, 1901. All those who wish to be benefited by taking advantage of this opportunity should make arrangements at an early date.

A party from Centre Hall tonight, Thursday, are invited to State College to the home of Miss Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Hart. The Stewarts have a reputation for entertaining, and those invited to their home tonight are looking forward to a feast of pleasure.

Messrs. J. J. and Mervin I. Arney, father and son, together with their wives, entertained about forty of their intimate friends in and about Centre Hall. The spread on this occasion was unusual, and will be hard to excel in many ways. Every one enjoyed themselves hugely and will long remember the Friday night spent with the Arneys.

James W. Runkle, the new landlord at the Centre Hall hotel, is now ready to give the traveling public the best of service. Last week Mr. Runkle was unable to entertain several large parties that made application to him for a night's use of the house, but any one who comes to the Centre Hall hotel after this, will find its new landlord equal to all emergencies, and the table up to and above the standard.

Ex-landlord of the Centre Hall hotel, W. H. Runkle, Sr., together with his wife and daughter, Mrs. Harry Condo, and Mr. Condo, Tuesday went to their new home, the Motter House, at York, Pa. The Motter House is quite a large hotel and does a splendid business. Under Mr. Runkle's charge the good reputation of the hostelry will surely be maintained.

Hon. John T. McCormick, superintendent of the Commercial telephone company, stopped in Centre Hall several days while the telephone exchange was being placed in more comfortable quarters. Mr. McCormick is fully alive to the interests of the commercial company and does all in his power to give its patrons the best of service and its employees pleasant and comfortable quarters.