



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR. 148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

GENERAL REVIEW OF MAJOR AND MINOR EVENTS.

Experiences of the Rank and File—Anecdotes and Observations.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.

(To be Continued.)

On another occasion the gang was again stationed at post No. 10. The weather was threatening, heavy black clouds tossed and rolled and sailed overhead; conditions became more threatening as the night advanced. The wind howled and swayed the trees till we thought they must come down on us. Great drops began to fall and there was every indication for getting soaked more thoroughly than ever before. The prospect was gloomy; just across the way stood the shack of an Irishman, kind hearted and hospitable. He was standing in the door watching the angry elements and hailed us: "hi! there! come into me house till the schtorm goes by! I said to the corporal, let us go. Can't do it, he said, we are in for it and we must take it. There was a frightful crash of thunder and the downpour increased and we bolted for the shack, which the corporal also reached a few minutes later. It was a storm to be remembered, but we escaped it.

The appearance of the inside of this shebang was odd and it was plainly seen that the Irishman's forethought served him better than his afterthought probably, inasmuch as he had moved his hen roosts into the house, to insure the safety of his birds. We set our chairs so that we might not be in the way of the poultry overhead. The room being small, the roosts were to one end and out of the way, that is, over his dining table and cupboard, on which the dishes, pots and pans were kept and also the wooden pail of drinking water with a gourd dipper in it. I imagined I heard great drops of water falling on the table, cupboard and floor and I inquired of the host, does your roof leak? He answered, no sir, it is not the roof that leaks, it is only the chickens overhead. Our Irish host also sold us a bit of "wit goods," so we did not need to drink from the iron bound bucket, in which hung the dipper.

The night passed and with it the storm. We returned to camp and reported to the captain; he felt sorry, he said, that we had such a bad night. I said it was awful, but I thought I eyed with some suspicion our dry uniforms and clean shoes, but he made no remarks. Comrade Elias Stover, of our company, had contracted a timely feebleness. He could not drill, it made him so tired and it aggravated his ailments and somehow he could not stand it like the younger fellows. He wore a dejected look and the captain appointed him company quartermaster. In this position he served the Lord and his country till he was retired in 1863.

The door of his log commissary opened outward and many a morning found him barred in, with a log standing against the door and only the officers would take it away. He would get mad and loudly swear for revenge. When cold weather came he put a door to a big store box and made a nest of twigs inside. In the evening he would retire into this box, pull the door shut and sleep in there, but at night the boys would pile wood, logs and barrels against the door, to hear him crow for someone to let him out in the morning.

The boys seemed to be humorously disposed toward the "ancient" soldiers who were rheumatic or otherwise willfully indisposed. We had, perhaps, half a dozen men in the company who were ancient enough to be quartermasters and who never would keep time to "hay foot, straw foot," but would continually kick your heels behind, or travel on your toes in front and if, as rarely happened, they got into a battle they shot the air above or the earth below, but did no harm to the enemy.

Quartermasters drill not neither do they fight; their duties are to sit or lie down in the commissary while in camp, and march with the supply train during campaigns, and "sneak transportation" in the wagons. They were harmless, and could not hit a barn close by with a gun. Quartermasters were uncommonly shy of flying missiles, the roar and din and confusion and liability to accident in battle.

One of our boys, John A. Miller by name, would go after his rations at his own convenience and time, which did not suit quartermaster Stover and the boys will never forget how loudly and continuously he would call, "John A.

Continued on Third Page.

CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Discussion of the New System—Advantages to be Gained by Rural Scholars—Transportation Checks Tardiness and Stimulates Regular Attendance—Good Moral Influence.

Part II.

By consolidation all the children of a large territory, usually, but not necessarily, a whole township, can be brought together in one school building, thus giving them the benefit of a graded school and the inspiration that comes from numbers. In many of our smaller schools the classes range from two to three pupils. Under such conditions it is impossible for the teacher to create or maintain enthusiasm and interest. There is no incentive for the pupils to put forth their best efforts, because, with the small attendance, the work is necessarily tiresome and monotonous. In a consolidated school, however, large classes thoroughly graded can be organized, thus calling forth the best efforts of all the members of the school. Longer recitation periods, better courses of study, and better teachers will give better and larger opportunities for instruction. There is no valid reason why we should not give the pupils of the rural communities the same advantages in the matter of courses of study and instruction as those enjoyed by the pupils of the larger centers of population. The consolidation of schools will concentrate the community wealth in one good school, thus giving to the community larger and better educational advantages.

Under the old system the pupils finish the common-school course at from fourteen to fifteen years of age. The parents, even if able to incur the expense of sending their children away to school, do not, in many cases, think it wise at this age to release the children from parental care, and from the restraining and helpful influences of home life. It thus usually happens that for a year or two the boy or girl is either kept from school altogether, or, if continuing in school, undertakes to take up some of the higher branches in the district school. But the difficulty is that the teacher is often unable to give proper instruction in those branches, or, if able, finds the time too fully occupied in giving the necessary instruction in the common branches. It is an established fact that, in the ungraded country school, where the teacher has all classes from the A B C up, with twenty-five or thirty recitations, but little time is found for instruction in the higher branches. For these reasons the pupils doing advanced work find themselves poorly accommodated, and their interest flags. Then, by the time they have reached an age when the parents are willing to allow them to leave the home, they have, in a large majority of cases, lost interest in school work. But even if, at the age of eighteen or nineteen years, they conclude to begin school work again, they find that they have, in some measure, lost the habit of study which they once had, and that they have two, and in many cases three, years of preparatory work ahead of them before they can take up the college course. This means six or seven years of school life away from home before a college course can be completed. Many become discouraged, and thus fail to secure a higher education. And when we reflect that fully 40 per cent. of our school population is found in the rural schools, the problem becomes one of supreme importance.

An educational system that takes the child away from the wholesome influence of home during the formative period of life ought to be improved. The city high school gives the child

an opportunity to secure a good education right at home. Why should not the boys and girls upon the farm enjoy the same privileges? The consolidation of schools will equalize educational conditions. It will bring high-school privileges to the rural communities. It will bring to the farm what the boy goes to the city to get. It will bring the best blessing of the city to the country school, thus making it possible for the children to stay at home until they have attained that age when the fibers of character are strong, convictions mature, and habits firmly fixed. Under such conditions parents will not hesitate to send them out into the world. These young people from the rural communities, with a good education and good habits, will not be so easily tempted by the glitter and glamour and hollowness of city life. With high ideals, and a body clean and strong from nature's choicest influences, they will take their places as conservative and useful members in the honorable pursuits of active life. If the consolidation of schools will bring these larger opportunities to the farm, thus enabling us to rear a generation of men and women free from the enticing and degrading influences of the large cities it seems it is worthy of earnest support and co-operation.

Consolidation of schools will give better prepared and better paid teachers. Under present conditions there is no inducement to prepare thoroughly for teaching in the rural communities with only the prospect of being able to earn \$25 or \$30 per month for a few months of the year. If we hope to secure good teachers we must build good schools. The teacher does not rise above the requirements of the school. The better the pay, the better the service. The better the position, the greater the inducement on the part of the teacher to prepare thoroughly for it. By building up strong graded schools in rural communities we create a condition which will require those who expect to teach to make thorough preparation in the way of high school, normal, and university training. It is generally believed by educators that consolidation of schools will do more than any other one thing to make teaching a profession.

The consolidated school at Lorraine, in Ellsworth County, Kan., was organized in the fall of 1896. It is composed of the territory of what was formerly four country school districts. They now have a graded and high school employing four teachers. The school started with three teachers, but last year a two-year high school course was added, thus making an additional teacher necessary. As in every other place where the plan has been tried, the enrollment and attendance is much larger than before, being almost one-half greater than under the old plan. This increased attendance in school and greater length of term are of great value to the community and to the pupils attending school.

A very positive endorsement of this movement in Kansas is found in the fact that in Ellsworth County the adjoining districts are anxious to join the Lorraine district, and some of the patrons are sending their children to the consolidated school, paying their own transportation charges and tuition. The people of Lorraine are more than satisfied, and would not think of going back to the old plan.

Clearfield Auditors Surcharge.

John F. Short, editor of the Clearfield Republican, a Democratic paper, a few months ago brought to the attention of the grand jury of that county, the fact that the Republican county commissioners had paid extravagant prices for lightning rods. A non-partisan investigation committee was appointed by Judge Gordon, a Republican, and as a result of the findings of this committee, the auditors were obliged to surcharge the commissioners in the sum of \$575. The sum paid for lightning rods was \$1631.

One of the auditors, R. E. Shaw, Democrat, refused to sign the report, because, in his opinion, the surcharge was not large enough, and because the other auditors refused to investigate two very shady contracts in connection with improvements to the court house last year.

These contracts carried an expenditure of over \$12,000, and there were no vouchers for about half the amount when the auditors convened. Subsequently vouchers were prepared, but the items were bungled and in some instances duplicated.

Late arrivals, long and short sleeve corset covers; knitted light gauze underwear, very desirable—Garman's.

Bills in Legislature.

Mr. Rex, Montgomery, authorizing jury commissioners to appoint a clerk at a salary of five dollars per day to fill the jury wheel and draw juries.

Mr. Moyer, Lehigh, amending the act providing for the destruction of Canada thistles so as to include golden rod, ox-eye daisy, milk weed, wild carrots, and sorrel.

Mr. Graess, Columbia, providing for the election of road supervisors in townships, defining their terms of office and the disposition of revenues for road purposes.

Mr. Matson, McKean, providing that any person violating the rules or regulations of boards of health of any township, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine of not more than fifty dollars, or undergo imprisonment not exceeding six months or both.

These bills also were passed finally. Making it unlawful for any person to publish, distribute or circulate any circular, pamphlet, handbill, etc., offering to procure or aid in procuring a divorce, or offering to appear or act as counsel in any suit for divorce.

Making it a misdemeanor for persons to unlawfully use or wear the insignia or button of the Spanish-American or Philippine war societies.

WANT RURAL DELIVERY

A Memorial Sent to Washington Asking the Department for the Service.

The residents in the rural district on the north side of Penns Valley are anxious to have the postoffice department install the rural delivery system, with Centre Hall as the central office. A memorial was sent to Washington beginning of this week bearing the signatures of nearly every resident on the route, which asks that such a system be maintained.

The route, as laid out by local enthusiasts, will begin at Centre Hall and extend to the residence of James A. Keller, thence to Perry Breen, back to Spring Mills pike, across by George Gingerich, Howard and Philip Durst, to Isaac Smith, to Brush Valley road, along said road to Squire Fergus Potter, across by Henry Zeigler to Lloyd Brown on Boalsburg road, along said road to Old Fort and Centre Hall. The distance covered is twenty-one miles.

It is expected that the department will send an inspector here, who will go over the route, and probably make minor changes.

The movement took shape in Progress Grange, which organization claims as members fully two-thirds of the farmers covered by the territory embraced in the route given above. George Gingerich circulated the petition.

Linden Hall.

Miss Jane Potter returned home Friday after spending several weeks in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Smith and daughter, of Centre Hill, are visiting Mrs. Agnes Meyers.

Mrs. Sue Wolf, of Woodward, is spending the week with Mrs. Keller.

Among the guests at a luncheon given on Tuesday by Mrs. and Miss Hess, were Theodore Boal, Mrs. Boal, Miss Davis, Miss De Legarde, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Wieland, Miss Edwina Wieland and Pierre Boal.

Oscar Goodlander spent last week with his family at Pardee.

Mrs. John Winklebeck, of Coburn, spent Sunday with her husband at the home of P. C. Bradford.

Frank McFarlane is housed up with an attack of the grip.

Mrs. Frank Ishler, of Boalsburg, is visiting her many friends about Linden Hall.

Mrs. Cal. Wieland and children, of Boalsburg, spent Friday and Saturday with Mrs. Frank Wieland.

Nittany Mountain.

Mrs. G. P. Thomas and sister visited in Centre Hall last week.

James Dubbs is lying ill with pneumonia at McNitt Bros. & Co., stove mill on the Mountain.

George W. Noll is improving very slowly from his sickness.

George Glace and Elmer Harshbarger are baling their crop of hay.

John Snyder baled a lot of hay last week.

Cal. Horner was to Centre Hall on Saturday, the first since he trimmed stove chunks with the hatchet.

Mrs. Kate Horner is on the sick list.

Rhudy Gingerich moves from Samuel Rhodes' house in the spring; Adam Rhodes takes possession of same.

Mrs. Fred Heisley was seen in Black Hawk on Monday.

J. B. Spross and wife were to Bellefonte on Tuesday; business and pleasure combined.

The Play Saturday Night.

The entertainment by the Epworth League of the Methodist church in Grange Arcadia Saturday night attracted a full house, many of whom were from out of town. The various parts of the plays were well executed, and those who participated were heartily applauded.

Those who took part in the play were Mrs. Helen Grenoble, Mrs. Thos. L. Moore, Misses Anna Bartholomew, Edith and Anna Lutz, Elsie Moore, Anna and Sarah Breen, Messrs. Chas. D. and Ed. L. Bartholomew, Thomas L. Moore, Ollie Stover, George Breen, Samuel Gross, John Puff, Joseph Lutz, Wm. Stump.

A quartet composed of Mrs. Anna Booser, Mrs. Helen Grenoble, Mrs. Thos. L. Moore and Mrs. Samuel S. Kreamer rendered several pieces of music in elegant style.

DEATHS.

MRS. ALBERT RHOADS.

Clara, wife of Albert Rhoads of Bellefonte, died Friday at the age of forty-seven years and seven months. Deceased was a daughter of Henry Shaffer, of Lock Haven.

HARRY GHRET.

At the age of forty-four years, Harry Ghret, a sufferer from gangrene, died at the Bellefonte hospital Monday evening. Deceased leaves a wife, whose name before her marriage was Villa Strouse, of State College, and three children.

Müllheim citizens are discussing the matter of constructing water works.

TO RAISE TEACHERS' WAGES.

A Bill Before the Legislature to Make the Minimum Salary \$40.00 per Month.

Representative C. A. Snyder, of Schuylkill county, Tuesday introduced a bill in the Legislature which fixes the minimum salary of the public school teacher at \$40.00 per month. The penalty attached is that districts that do not fulfill the law will lose their portion of the state appropriation. Wednesday the bill was reported favorably, with an amendment making the minimum \$30.00.

The Philadelphia Press, which is an ardent advocate of the new measure, Tuesday editorially said:

The facts respecting the pay of school teachers in certain counties of the State present a disgraceful condition, the shame of which must be felt by every citizen of the Commonwealth. It is all the worse because there is no excuse for it.

The State distributes annually to the several school districts the enormous sum of \$5,500,000. Each district gets its proportion. In addition the State pays the salaries of the county superintendents and makes liberal appropriations to a number of normal schools. No other State appropriates any such amount out of its Treasury for the benefit of the common school, yet there are few States in which the average of pay for teachers—particularly women teachers—is less than in Pennsylvania, and these are States where no boast is made of encouraging public education.

In nearly all the States considerably more is paid the teachers than here. The average for women teachers in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia is \$33.34 a month. In Massachusetts they receive an average of \$52.75. But while this is the average there are some counties in this State where the pay is less than \$20 a month, and thousands are discharging the delicate responsibilities which their work puts upon them for less pay per month than unskilled labor receives, for less than the wages of domestic servants. There are only eight counties in the State, including Philadelphia, where the pay of women teachers averages as much as \$40 a month.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has more than once directed attention to these humiliating facts. It is time the State relieved itself of the disgrace, which it is not difficult to do while making such lavish appropriations to the common schools. The Legislature can and should fix a minimum rate for the pay of school teachers and withhold the State appropriation from any district that undertakes to pay less. Such a requirement is essential if the common school system in many counties is to be maintained with anything like decent efficiency. Increased appropriations have not increased the salaries of teachers; rigid legislation must be resorted to.

The Legislature, having the remedy so clearly in its own hands, cannot afford to permit any county by a tardy treatment of its teachers to continue what has been so long a reproach and shame. It would be an inexcusable wrong, and repugnant to decent and wholesome public sentiment.

SETBACK FOR LOVE FACTION.

Failure of Governor to Appoint Chambers is Disappointing to Judge.

A Bellefonte correspondent to the North American says Governor Pennypacker's failure to appoint Edward R. Chambers Deputy Attorney General has convinced Judge Love and his adherents that they will not be consulted to any great extent by the Executive in the distribution of the State patronage.

Chambers is a distant relative of Pennypacker by marriage and he was induced to become an applicant for the Deputy Attorney Generalship in the hope that he would be appointed and thereby enable Love and his adherents to claim that they control the appointments from Centre county.

Wilbur F. Reeder, Deputy Attorney General under Hastings' Administration, also became an applicant for the place when he learned that Chambers was being considered, for the purpose of keeping out the Love faction, and his candidacy had the desired effect.

Reeder did not expect to be appointed when he filed his application, and if he had thought he would have had any chance for the job he would not have applied. [Nit.—Editor.]

Judge Love and his friends are trying to secure control of the Republican organization, but Reeder and the rest of the followers of the late Governor Hastings do not anticipate serious opposition to their plans at the next primaries.

With Reeder as county chairman, the Hastings following expect to be consulted by Senators Quay and Penrose in the distribution of the Federal patronage.

Monday the weather was warm and balmy; Tuesday and Wednesday, warm, rainy; Thursday, fierce west wind, cold.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

George G. McCamant was nominated by President Roosevelt for postmaster at Tyrone.

Rev. Shultz is continuing the protracted meeting in the United Evangelical church in this place.

Part two of the series of articles on consolidation of schools appears this week. Good argument, read it.

Representative Kelsey introduced to the House, Harrisburg, a bill appropriating \$20,000 to the Lock Haven hospital.

James, a little son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Lingle, of near town, who had been ill with scarlet rash has fully recovered.

Governor Pennypacker appointed Thomas Lynch Montgomery, State Librarian and John C. Delaney factory inspector.

The lack of coal has compelled the Altoona Glass Company to close down throwing more than 3000 men out of employment.

Representative Snyder's views on the school question are not in keeping with the name of the county (Schuylkill) he represents.

The last Friday in January had all kinds of weather in it but rain—sunshine, snow storm and heavy winds. If that day rules this month, look out.

Attorney Harrison Walker was in Ebensburg, Cambria county, several days this week in the interests of the overseers of the poor of Walker township.

W. M. Robison, who for ten years has been the editor of the Lock Haven Daily Democrat, has accepted an editorial position on the Johnstown Democrat.

William Kerr and Ted Bailey Saturday afternoon drove to Salem's Reformed church, east of Penn Hall, to take a snap shot of the remodeled structure.

Mrs. Currin, wife of Rev. G. W. Currin, of Williamsport, whose illness was noted in these columns some weeks ago, is suffering from a tumor in her side.

J. B. Fleisher advertises the Fleisher property, in Centre Hall, for sale. See other column. Mr. Fleisher and family are spending the winter in Los Angeles, California.

The death of Harvey T. Jarrett makes a vacancy in the register and auditor's office of Clinton county, for which a half dozen Republicans are anxious to be appointed by the governor.

Col. J. L. Spangler, of Bellefonte, sent his check for one hundred dollars to Dr. Gray, of Williamsport, to enlarge the reference library of Dickinson seminary, of which institution the Colonel is a graduate.

B. D. Brisbin, in addition to purchasing the timber on the Arney farm, near town, also purchased all the timber on the farm of Rev. C. W. Rishel, near Centre Hill. Most of the logs will be hauled to Colyer's saw mill at the station and manufactured into car stuff.

Mrs. Sue Stapleton Brubaker, of Müllheim, will hold an entertainment in Müllheim on the evening of the 12th inst. Mrs. Brubaker is favorably known in Centre Hall, where she instructed a class and gave a splendid entertainment in the auditorium on Grange Park.

Rev. Ralph Illingworth, who was pastor of the Methodist church in this place some few years ago, but now serving a Presbyterian charge in Morenci, Arizona, is in the valley among friends. Rev. Illingworth is a minister of marked ability, and is well pleased with his western charge.

Dr. P. W. Litzell, of Spring Mills, beginning of this week moved to Portland Mills, Elk county, where he will resume the practice of medicine. Dr. Litzell has been practicing in his native town since he was granted a diploma and has met with good success. He is a young man of many good qualities, and no doubt will be successful in the new territory he has selected. Before leaving his old haunts the doctor on Monday called at the Reporter office.

Another of the great features which are to distinguish Scribner's Magazine during the current year begins in the February number. "The Presidential Office," by James Ford Rhodes, is the opening article in the series by various authors on the Government of the United States. Mr. Rhodes, the well-known historian, has had extraordinary opportunities to acquire a knowledge of the manner in which Presidents do their work, and in this article he passes acute comments not only on the earlier Presidents but upon Lincoln, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt.