

The Centre Reporter.



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NO. 7.

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.]

We resolved that we would not eat meat that was not prime and we sent a request to the regimental Quartermaster, to send us good fresh meat and no maggots, but there was no response to this request.

We wanted meat so we "laid together," made up a dollar and sent William Meyer over to the Lutherville butcher to get us some good fresh meat. He soon returned lugging a tremendous hog's head; we did not like the selection. Billy said the butcher told him the hog's head was the best and most meat for the money that he had. We decided to keep it and it abundantly supplied the gang with splendid meat for a week. At the end of this time we concluded that we would not soldier for Uncle Sam, and board ourselves; we again went to the commissary to reexamine the skippery meat. We found that the Quartermaster had boiled it all and had a barrel of nice looking boiled pork and a barrel of very fine soap-fat, but the skippers were still in evidence, but they, too, were well cooked.

We inspected the meat, it looked fine, skippers excepted; we tasted it, and the taste was all right. We took some for our supper and some of the soap fat and fried onions and potatoes in it and found it all right enough. The balance of the company followed our example and the meat and soap-fat was soon all used up. We had learned another lesson of war and never afterwards did harmless maggots frighten us. War is indeed a wonderful school; the great question after that was not, is it clean? but, is it enough?

Winter was rapidly coming in on us and the tents were cold sleeping places. One afternoon I told cousin Billy that I thought it would be more comfortable to sleep in the straw mow of that Rebel Tolbert's barn. I proposed sleeping over there; Billy thought the idea was a good one and from that time on for a while we would slip the guard, sneak in there erevings and dig down under the straw, where we were perfectly comfortable, and slept all night without waking. A better sleeping place no soldier needs.

Early in the morning we would strike for camp and roll call. One morning we did not wake up until break of day, when we heard Tolbert's slaves, about a dozen bucks and wenches, come in and commence to husk corn that had been hauled into the barn floor on the shock. We did not know how to get out of that straw mow for the only hole of escape led through the barn floor, where the niggers were sitting all around the hole through which we must get out. While we were hesitating we heard the musicians call in camp for reveille. There was no more time for us. I whispered to Billy, follow me, and with a grand rush we bolted out of the hole, past and over the niggers, through the corn fodder, at the same time we let go a hideous yell, scaring the niggers half to death, we struck across the field into the camp, up through the street and into the ranks of the company, all over chaff, straw and dust and out of breath.

The captain looked at us very funny and continuously but said not a word, as the orderly went on with roll call: Privates Brachbill, Boob first, Bierly second, Bierly third on down to Meyer first, Meyer second, Meyer third, etc., as usual to the end of the roll.

Winter had now set in in good earnest and we began to think that we would be allowed to spend the winter here. We occupied a fairly comfortable barrack and duty was light, but there seemed to be a great deal of unrest in the army and through the north. "Why don't the army move?" was still the song and the drift seemed to be toward a winter campaign. All during November there were rumors of contemplated movements, and marching orders were daily expected, still we hoped they would not come. The company had secured the friendship and good will of the people of Lutherville and vicinity to a remarkable degree. Often on Sundays, upon the invitation of the church people, the company would march in regular order to the Lutherville church, where the center pews were given over to the soldiers, while the members of the congregation would occupy the side pews and the regular minister, Rev. Sadtler,

Continued on Fifth 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 III.

It is evident that with the consolidation of schools will come a larger social life for the people of rural communities. A higher standard of intelligence and culture will also be developed. The graded school will bring to the community libraries, lecture courses and entertainments of high character. The neighborhood feuds will be broken down, and a feeling of helpfulness and good-will will be created instead. This enrichment and preservation of our rural life is one of the important problems of our time. In the degree in which the opportunities for education among the great masses of the people are enlarged, in the same degree is added to the interest of higher education and to the permanency of our social institutions. By this union of educational forces the standard of scholarship also is raised and encouragement given to culture and learning along broad lines of usefulness.

The advantages of the consolidation plan as applied to rural schools have been clearly set forth in this article. From the educationist's point of view, there can be no doubt that, in many instances, the consolidation of country school districts has resulted in a marked improvement of conditions; it has made possible the employment of better teachers, has stimulated school attendance, has secured more thorough superintendence, has enabled teachers to classify their pupils more satisfactorily, and has led to the providing of advanced courses and lengthy terms of instruction. The testimony of educational experts is well-nigh unanimous on these points; and at teachers' conferences, where the matter is discussed, it is said that objections to the plan are seldom raised. State and county superintendents of schools, from Maine to Florida, have long been convinced that the consolidation of small and weak districts must, in nine cases out of ten, be the first step in the actual strengthening of the school systems of State or county. Not, perhaps, in every State, but, certainly, in most of the older commonwealths, it is at last realized that there are too many poorly-attended, inefficient schools in the country districts.

The school superintendents, State and county, were the first to grasp the essential facts of this situation. In the performance of their duties they were brought face to face with conditions that could not be ignored. They saw, better than the taxpayers themselves how poor a return the rural taxpayers were getting for school taxes which, in the aggregate, amounted up to vast sums of money—expenditures that have long been the boast of this land of the free school and the envy of less progressive people.

That these great public funds have suffered grievously from waste and misapplication may easily be shown. Go to the middle West and single out the prosperous, well-peopled State of Wisconsin. The story told by the school statistics of that thriving State almost passes belief—316,833 pupils enrolled in the rural and village schools, and an average daily attendance of only 179,918, or 56.7 per cent. Now, how does this concern the taxpayer? It means that, while the people of Wisconsin paid out for the maintenance of these schools during the year 1901 the sum of \$3,669,088.77, only 56.7 per cent. of this expenditure was utilized, simply because 43.3 per cent. of the school children failed to avail themselves of the school privileges that were provided. As Superintendent Harvey points out in a bulletin recently issued from his office, there was an actual loss to the taxpayers of Wisconsin from this cause, in 1901, of \$1,588,715.41, this being the amount paid out for teachers' wages, fuel and supplies to provide school facilities for pupils who were not at school. From other States come similar reports. In North Dakota, on an enrollment of 77,686, there was an average daily attendance last year of 43,560. The year's expenditures for common-school purposes exceeded \$1,500,000, and the superintendent of public instruction estimates the waste from non-attendance at over \$600,000—no small item compared with the annual budget of a

E. R. McClellan and Thomas Fleisch-er, of Colyer, were callers at this office last week.

Miss Rosie Krape, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Krape, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Reareick, of Spring Mills.

Mrs. D. Wagner Geiss, of Bellefonte, is spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Goodhart, of Centre Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Geiss in Centre Hall.

Roll of Honor.

Primary School, Anna Bartholomew, teacher—Alice Rearick, Verna Rowe, Florence Stover, Harry Armstrong, Clarence Miller, Bruce Stahl, John Whiteman.

Intermediate School, F. A. Foreman, teacher—William Bradford, Ralph Dinges, James From, Guy Foreman, Charlie Miller, Harry Mader, John Rowe, Freda Bailey, Isabel Rowe.

CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL.

Forty-seven Boys and Girls Equipped for Life's Battle will Enter Business World.

The Carlisle Indian School this week closes its twenty-fourth year. The graduating class consists of forty-seven students—twenty-seven girls and twenty boys. The students are well prepared to enter the business world.

In September, 1879, the army post known as Carlisle Barracks was turned over to the Interior Department to be converted into an industrial school, with Colonel E. H. Pratt as superintendent.

The first pupils arrived October 5, 1879. There were eighty-two untaught Sioux boys and girls from Rose Bud and Pine Ridge Agencies, South Dakota, in native dress. The main purpose of the school is to prepare Indian youths to enter the business world.

Since the organization of the school 4687 pupils have been enrolled, 1745 having been girls and 2942 boys.

At present 1011 students are enrolled. Of this number 450 are girls and 561 boys. The amount earned by students during the last fiscal year was \$31,619.16, of which the girls earned \$11,373.39, and the boys \$20,245.77.

For Purer Politics.

We, the undersigned, respectively Chairmen of the Republican and Democratic committees of Centre county, with a view to securing purer politics in borough and county elections, do hereby agree upon the following:—

1st. That the use of intoxicating liquors and the purchase of votes with money or the promise of anything of value, have become a pronounced evil and we therefore pledge our conscientious effort to totally eradicate all semblance of such practices.

2nd. We hereby pledge ourselves to the payment of the sum of Fifteen Dollars to the first person who makes information and secures the conviction of any person or persons of bribery or furnishing intoxicating drinks, money or anything of value to influence a voter.

3rd. That the citizens of the county be requested to offer a voluntary contribution for the establishment of a fund to be used solely for the purpose of paying the reward and expenses incurred in such a prosecution or future prosecutions. Said contributions to be deposited in a bank to be agreed upon by the undersigned.

WILBUR F. REEDER,
Chairman Republican Com.
CYRUS BRUNGART,
Chairman Democratic Com.

Bills Before the House.

To limit the sum to be spent on erecting county bridges to \$200,000 each year. During the past year the contracts for such bridges, among which was the Spring Mills bridge, will aggregate \$1,000,000.

The following bills were introduced: Mr. Balthaser, of Berks, making it unlawful to kill deer or elk in any other manner than by the use of a charge or cartridge containing but one ball and fixing a penalty of \$100.

Mr. Brosius, of Lancaster, amending the act of 1895, establishing the Department of Agriculture, so as to empower the Secretary to employ experts for special investigation and providing for a distribution of the annual report of the department.

Mr. Castner, of Lycoming, fixing the pay of election officers according to the number of votes polled.

Mr. Kepler, of Centre, regulating the practice of veterinary surgery.

Mr. Vasbinder, Jefferson, levying an annual tax of \$250 on cigarette dealers.

A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives last week by Hon. Fred Ikleer, of Columbia county, enacting that portion of 1895 which says that the minority party should be entitled to elect a Superior Court Judge when two are to be elected. Should the bill become law the Democrats would be entitled to elect a Superior Court Judge next November, when three are to be chosen.

LOCALS.

Wm. Zerbe, of near Spring Mills, was in town Saturday, and as is his custom when in town, called at the Reporter office.

Mrs. S. W. Smith and Freda Bailey were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. Ray Morgan, at State College the latter part of last week.

Merchant John H. Rishel, of Farmers Mills, Monday went to Philadelphia, where he will enter a hospital for treatment of the stomach. Mr. Rishel has suffered a great deal from stomach trouble in the last few years.

The calendar for 1903 gives these facts: St. Valentine Day comes on Saturday, Washington's Birthday on Sunday, Memorial Day and Fourth of July on Saturday, Christmas on Friday, Ash Wednesday on February 24, Good Friday on April 10 and Easter on April 12.

DEATHS.

REUBEN GRAMLEY.

Reuben Gramley, one of the prominent residents of Rebersburg, died in that place Friday of last week, at the age of seventy-two years, one month and twenty-nine days.

Interment took place Monday, Rev. Herman and Rev. Wetzel officiating. The deceased belonged to one of the most prominent families in Brush Valley, and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. His brother, Samuel Gramley, was laid to rest a few days previous.

Della, wife of George W. Ocker, of Lewisburg; Mary, wife of Luther Guisewite, of Harrisburg, and Clark M. Gramley, Rebersburg, are the surviving children.

MARGARET ALTERS.

The death of Margaret Alters occurred Saturday at eleven o'clock at Spring Mills. She had reached the advanced age of seventy-six years, four months and eighteen days. The funeral took place Tuesday forenoon, interment being made in the Georges Valley cemetery, Rev. J. M. Bearick and Rev. S. E. Koontz officiating.

Fifty-eight years ago the deceased, whose maiden name was Margaret Moyer, became the wife of Abraham Alters, and for the past nineteen years the aged couple lived in Spring Mills. Mrs. Alters was a member of the Lutheran church. The children who survive her are Joseph M. Alters and James Monroe Alters, Bellefonte; Anna Mary, wife of Thomas Kennelly, Spring Mills; Susan, wife of John Greenleaf, Sioux City, Iowa; W. H. Alters, Altoona.

The American Bride.

There is a difference, it seems, between the American bride and the bride of other countries. The American woman adapts herself to changed circumstances more readily than any foreigner can do. As the wife of the farmer or the capitalist, she acquires rapidly the manners of her station. Such is the view taken by a writer on the subject of brides in the February Cosmopolitan, whose article is illustrated with a dozen fine photographs of lovely women in her wedding-dress.

Are You Going West?

Within ten days the Reporter office will be supplied with literature bearing on the advantages of North Dakota as a suitable western location for those wishing to invest in farm lands, or make the west their home. Persons desiring to go west will be financially benefited by communicating with this office several weeks before the time set for the journey.

State Educators Convene.

The city and county school superintendents met in annual convention in Harrisburg Tuesday and Wednesday, and today (Thursday) and Friday the school directors of the state will hold meetings at the same place.

The meetings of the superintendents was largely attended, and it is expected that directors from all portions of the state will be in attendance the latter part of the week.

Centre county will be represented at this educational meeting by Superintendent C. L. Gramley, Rebersburg; Col. D. F. Fortney, Bellefonte; Capt. C. T. Frybarger, Phillipsburg, and S. W. Smith, Centre Hall.

Colonel Fortney, whose school views are respected by all who uphold the public school system, will on Friday afternoon deliver an address on "The increase of the appropriation has occasioned the decrease on tax levy in certain districts; the evil and the remedy."

Tour to California.

The second Pennsylvania Railroad Personally-conducted Tour to California for the present season will leave New York and Philadelphia on the Golden Gate Special, February 19, going via Cincinnati, New Orleans, San Antonio and El Paso to Los Angeles and San Diego. Three days will be spent in New Orleans, during the Mardi-Gras festivities. Should a sufficient number of passengers desire to travel under the care of a Tourist Agent and Chaperon, a delightful month's itinerary in California has been outlined; and a returning itinerary to leave San Francisco March 28, visiting Salt Lake City, Glenwood and Colorado Springs and Denver, arriving in New York April 6. Rate, \$275 from all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad east of Pittsburgh, covering all expense of railroad transportation, side trips in California, and meals going on the special train. No hotel expenses in California are included. Tickets are good for return within nine months, but returning cover transportation only. For detailed itinerary apply to Ticket Agents, or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Will J. Mitterling will have sale this spring.

In another column will be found the applications for liquor licenses in Centre county.

Colonel W. J. Bryan will lecture in Altoona Friday night, stopping on his way to New York.

Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Hosterman, attended the funeral of Reuben Gramley, at Rebersburg, Monday.

Wm. L. Royer and daughter, of McConnell, Illinois, who spent several weeks among friends in Penns Valley, Monday returned to their home.

J. L. Boone, of Logan, ex-county commissioner of Clinton county, fell on the icy pavement when on his way from his home to his son's store and injured his hip so that he is now unable to take a step.

The states of Missouri, Kentucky and lower Illinois experienced earthquake shocks Sunday. Pictures were shaken from walls in some sections, but no serious damage was done. A similar shock was felt in Paris about the same time.

C. M. Sweetwood, of Potters Mills, will now be found near Peotone, Will county, Ill., where he is engaged in working on a farm. Mr. Sweetwood has spent other seasons on western farms and seems to enjoy their customs and methods on the farm.

James H. Lohr and daughter Nellie, of Philadelphia, arrived in Centre Hall latter part of last week. Mr. Lohr is a clerk in Broad Street Station, which position he has held for some years. He came here to visit his aged father, Wm. Lohr.

While Mrs. Ellis Myers, of Lock Haven, was partaking of a lunch last week a small piece of bread crum became lodged in her windpipe. After much effort the particle was dislodged. Mrs. Myers nearly choked to death, and was quite ill from the effect of the shock.

Ira C. Korman, of Oak Hall, advertises public sale for Friday, February 27. He will sell a large number of implement repairs, which will make the sale attractive to farmers. Mr. Korman will move on the F. L. Black farm, one mile north of Pine Grove Mills.

Mrs. C. A. Boyer, of Millinburg, accompanied by her father, Jacob Lee, of Linden Hall, were among friends in Centre Hall Saturday, Saturday afternoon Mr. Boyer, who is a telegraphist in the Pennsylvania railroad station at Millinburg, joined his wife here and later went to Linden Hall.

Progress Grange held a meeting Saturday afternoon that was largely attended by its members. The fourth degree was given to a number of new members. The Grange has secured the services of Mrs. Rose DeWoodie who will instruct the younger members of the organization preparatory to giving a monthly exercise.

Prof. A. Miles Arney, an instructor in the electrical department of Pennsylvania State College, was over Sunday the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Arney, of this place. Prof. Arney is one of a number of young men who have gone out from this place and occupy stations in life that reflect the greatest credit to Centre Hall and surroundings.

Messrs. Arthur Lenney and Thomas W. Bittner, of Lock Haven, who represented the International Correspondence school of Scranton in this place for several days last week, succeeded in enlisting several scholars, and interesting a number of young men who are debating the matter. The magnitude of this correspondence school can be partially judged from the fact that the average daily mail for the institution is over \$700.00.

Edwin K. Smith, of Oak Hall, has accepted an agency for the Home Co-operative Company, of Kansas City, Mo. The company will furnish you money to pay off your mortgage or buy you a home in any locality, and give you ten years and five months to pay it back at the rate of \$8.50 per month with interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum, on a graduating scale. You will see his advertisement later.

Aaron B. Herbst, accompanied by his son Hervey, of Muncy Station, Lycoming county, stopped in Centre Hall last week on his way to Pennsylvania State College, where he has a son attending that institution. Mr. Herbst is the only son of Squire Herbst, deceased, who for many years exercised a great influence for good in the community in which he lived. Like many other fathers who have children to educate, Mr. Herbst will leave the farm in the spring and move to Muncy, which town has splendid school facilities.