



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

GENERAL REVIEW OF MAJOR AND MI- NOR EVENTS.

Experiences of the Rank and File—Anec- dotes and Observations.

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

[To be Continued.]

Dec. 17th, 1862, we crossed the Potomac, Rappahannock peninsula, and reached the camps of the Army of the Potomac in the afternoon and reported at Division Head Quarters of Gen. Hancock, near Falmouth and Fredericksburg, and were assigned to the first Brigade, First Division, Second Army Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Conch, while Maj. Gen. Hancock was our Division Commander; we remained with this corps.

We were too late for the great battle of Fredericksburg, which was fought and lost, Dec. 13th to 15th, 1862. Had we been moved by rail or by transport down the Potomac, to Aquia, we would have been in time. Though we were too late to join in the battle, we were not too late to note the awful wreck and demoralization of this noble army. Burying parties were still at their gruesome work, under flag of truce, on the south, or Fredericksburg side of the Rappahannock river. We could see the long trenches containing our dead, as they grew still longer, side by side, great yellow streaks of freshly dug ground.

The wounded had all been brought over and immense field hospitals, in tents, had been established, and filled, while thousands of the less severely wounded were shipped to Washington, and farther north.

But what comfort did these tents furnish to the wounded? Without stoves or fire, in mid-winter; death seemed the only relief, and came quickly to many, and the long trenches containing the dead outside, grew rapidly longer. The "diggers" were kept busy; a score of dead, just carried out, and lying in a row side by side, at the end of the trench awaiting burial.

Let us go inside, I said to comrade S. M. Spangler, and we went in. If the graves and the still unburied dead and mangled bodies outside were a shocking sight, what shall we say of the inside? Here, indeed, was an appalling sight; men, nearly all quite young, some mere boys, wounded and torn, in all manner of form and places; an arm, a leg, in several instances both legs gone; bandaged and bloody, lying in long and regular rows on the frozen ground, or sitting alone, or in groups, shivering in the cold, many waiting, only waiting, for the summons, that, apparently was so near.

With all this suffering, they were quiet; no outcry, no complaint; surgeons and attendants were dressing wounds. Beyond, a chaplain praying over a dying soldier; out near the end of the great tent, a chaplain sang a hymn in which a dying soldier tried to join, but his voice failed. The chaplain finished the hymn, then bent over him in prayer, during which he ceased. The chaplain straightened the form of the poor boy, folded his hands on his breast and they carried him out and laid him in the row of the dead on the frozen ground and in fast falling snow.

The chaplain turned round and spoke to the other wounded boys sitting and lying on the ground in low, earnest tones, making no effort to restrain the tears that were fast flowing down over his pallid cheeks. A detail of soldiers was engaged in sorting the dead from the living. The dead they carried outside and laid them in the row of dead awaiting burial. Here were dead frozen fast to the ground in their own blood. An attendant was heard to call, this one is dead, take him out; here is another, etc.

We were satisfied and it was a relief to get out of that awful den and we questioned whether this was savagery or civilization. In no way can the people and a restored government meet and satisfy so great a sacrifice. All they can do is cherish the memory of the honored dead and provide for those whose support was lost on the dreadful field, and those more fortunate, who escaped with their lives, though shattered in health and crippled in body.

Fredericksburg was a great disaster and had a demoralizing effect on the army, and caused intense dissatisfaction throughout the north. The most foolish part of the move was the persistent attack and repeated charges of our army on the Confederate centre, on Marie's Heights, and the great stone wall, a very strong position naturally, and completely fortified. The rank and file knew better and would not have made so great a blunder.

It was an impregnable position; six
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ADDRESS ON SCHOOL APPROPRIATION.

Col. D. F. Fortney, of Bellefonte, Before the Directors' Association at Harrisburg, Tells the True Intent of the Legislation Appropriating \$5,000,000 Yearly for School Purposes.

Part II.

I do not wish to consume time in discussing the provisions of the act of June 8th, 1891. Enough has been said to clearly demonstrate that the real purpose of this legislation was to relieve the real estate of the burdens of local taxation. If anything else is needed it will be revealed by an examination of the debates on both the bills mentioned, as contained in the legislative record for 1891. Let us however make one quotation from the remarks of Mr. Taggart, "This bill has been held to meet the contingency which has arisen, and while we do not want to get away from the principle contained in the revenue bill passed by the house some time ago, yet we are determined that something shall be done for us, and for that reason we propose to pass this bill."

"The gentlemen complained that the appropriation of five million dollars to the Public Schools would require an increase of the revenue of the State, that there was not enough money in the treasury to meet the requirements of this bill. This bill is partly to provide the increase in the amount of money coming into the State Treasury." (Legislative record 1891, vol. 2, p. 2762.)

The demand that existed in 1891 for relief from the burdens of taxation for local purposes is still on, in all the agricultural districts. The farmers insist they pay taxes on real estate for local purposes to the amount of 16 mills on the dollar, and that personally, in the nature of money at interest and corporate property, pay only an average of three mills on the dollar. If the statements, as contained in the report of the secretary of internal affairs are correct their contention is true. Not to weary you, I cut out all detail and give the figures in recapitulation. The assessed value of real estate as set out in the report of the secretary of internal affairs for 1901, p. 261, B. was \$3,776,829,585.00. The aggregate amount of taxes collected on this, nets \$44,429,273.36, the total appraised, or assessed value of personal and corporate property, as set out in the department report, is \$4,725,460,278.68 and the amount realized from this in the nature of taxes is \$14,176,380.83 an average of 3 mills on the dollar. They insist that instead of the State returning, through appropriation to the Public Schools, and other channels about \$12,000,000 it should be required to return at least \$25,000,000.

These men know that they pay no tax on real estate, that goes to the State. They also know that their farms indeed, all manner of real estate in country, town and city, is very heavily taxed for local purposes. They know too that all personal (I do not mean to include in this word farm stock) and corporate property, pay taxes on their value not equal to one fifth paid on real estate.

I need not pursue this line of reasoning further. It was made necessary by nature of the question under consideration, and shows clearly why and how the \$5,000,000 appropriation was made to the schools in 1891, which in 1893 was increased to \$5,500,000 by reason of the fact that the districts were obliged, by an act passed that year, to furnish all text books free.

It is true that the people, or rather the school authorities in many of the rural districts have used their share of this great appropriation to relieve the burdens of local taxation. If they did not lessen the millage for school purposes they, at least were able through it, to meet the additional cost occasioned by the addition of a month to the school year, without an increase in the school tax. In many districts this increase is quite an item. To illustrate take Spring township, in Centre county, with twenty schools, paying an average salary of \$33.00 per month, adds for teachers pay alone \$640.00 to her annual expense account. This is a large and wealthy township. The millage in this district was 4 for school purposes and one for building in 1891, when there were only 16 schools, and for the year ending June 1902 3 1/2 mills all for school purposes. The amount raised by taxation in excess of the amount received from the State was only \$31.50. If any reduction in the

amount of school tax has been made in this district, it is moderate indeed.

In many of the larger boroughs in the central part of the State, (I speak of this because I have knowledge of the facts) considering the increase in valuation, the millage is about the same as it was in 1891. The increase in the State appropriation has enabled the school boards of these towns to pay higher wages, secure, as a rule better teachers, to annually put quite a number of books in their school libraries, and supply apparatus and material, heretofore much needed, for scientific purposes. It took some courage to do this. But I think it pays in results in bettering the boys and girls who reap the benefits of all this improvement.

This is about the situation all over the State in reference to the use made of the State appropriation to the public schools. In the last ten years there has been much discussion and fears, and hopes and joys experienced over what has been done with it. The State authorities from the executive down, the Department of Public Instruction, and Educational Associations have boasted of the great appropriation for the public schools and with hearts swelling with pride, pointed to it as the best evidence that Pennsylvania was fully aroused to the great cause of education. I don't blame them. When in the presence of educators from other states and I desired to make them feel small and insignificant, I pointed to our five and a half million appropriation to the public schools. It was the end of all comparison. It concluded all argument. We were by all odds the greatest supporters of public education.

When however, you get down to bed rock this vast sum of money was not given for the benefit of the schools, but to relieve the burdens of local taxation. Who shall blame the school boards of the rural districts for using this money for the purpose for which it was originally given them? It is an evil. I know our rural schools need help. They need to be advanced. They should afford better educational facilities. In many places they need better buildings, and better teachers, with better salaries. Many of the teachers are too youthful and lack proper preparation. All this works to the detriment of the pupil. It is an evil, a great evil that should be met and overcome. How shall this be done? I do not think I can fully answer this question.

But the first great thing to do is for the law making power to quit juggling with the schools. When an appropriation is made let it first and above everything else be for the schools, and not for relief from local taxation.

There is not even five millions and a half a year, now, given to schools under cover of relieving local taxation. Five hundred thousand dollars a year was hewed off four years ago. True this was reappropriated, but in such dribs that it is of but little use to the school districts, and in the appropriation of 1901 \$400,000 was taken off and given for another purpose.

If this great sum of money is for the schools, and intended solely and entirely for their benefit, and clearly it is not now so used, the legislature can remedy the evil, by providing other means for relieving the undue burdens of local taxation and in the appropriation to the school make provision that each district shall raise for school purposes at least, as much as they shall respectively receive from the State. I admit there is some danger in this, for districts may confine their power of taxation within this limit, and to do so in many districts would work irrevocable injury to the schools.

This may not be your views of either the evil or the remedy. I am, nevertheless, sure that the body which distributes the funds of our great Commonwealth has the remedy within its own hands, if it will but rise to the majesty of the occasion, and set uncontrolled and uninfluenced by any power save the purpose to do absolutely right and appropriate the money given to the schools for the schools and not for the alleviation of the burdens of local taxation.

LOCALS.
It's an ill wind that blows no one good.

Read the advertisement of B. W. Ripka, merchant, at Spring Mills.

Monday was a delightful day; the sun was bright and the sky clear.

Philip Saul, who for the past year has been in the employment of John Heckman, west of Centre Hall, will move to Pleasant Gap about the first of April.

LOCALS.
Regular meeting of Progress Grange Saturday afternoon.

Wednesday of last week the senate finally passed the State College appropriation bill carrying \$250,000 and the Bellefonte hospital bill, carrying \$10,000.

Major Wm. Blinger will leave Bellefonte and become a resident of New York, where he has accepted a position in the law department of a large gas company.

YEARICK'S COAL SHED WRECKED.

Nine Rapidly Moving Coal Cars Enter Open Switch and Do \$4000 Damage.

A draft of nine loaded coal cars moving rapidly along the Reading Railway swerved on an open switch at the coal yard of H. H. Yearick & Bro., 1841-45 North Tenth street, Saturday morning, and struck four other cars, which were sent crashing through the firm's office building, demolishing the structure and burying two employes among the debris. Neither was injured.

Several passers-by narrowly escaped being killed by flying bricks, and one of the cars landed in Tenth street, blocking the trolley cars for nearly three hours.

The employes buried in the debris were Thomas McFarland and E. D. Yearick. McFarland was up to his ears in bricks, mortar and coal, and a coal car hanging above him on a broken trestle threatened to fall and crush him at any moment. H. G. Yearick, a member of the firm, rescued the man after two hours' hard work. He also saved his brother, E. D. Yearick, who was pinned between a coal car and a pile of bricks.

The Reading Railway sent nearly two hundred men to clear away the debris and the company will rebuild the office at their own expense. The damage caused by the collision will reach \$4000.

P. G. Yearick said that the switch in the rear of his firm's yards was probably opened by boys who had been stealing coal in that vicinity during the last few days.

Messrs. H. H. Yearick and P. Gross Yearick are sons of Mrs. Phoebe Yearick, of this place, and brothers of Mrs. W. B. Mingle.

FROM ILLINOIS.

High Priced Coal and Wood High Prices Offered for Farm Labor—Consolidation.

Hard coal retails now at ten dollars per ton; it was twelve dollars. Soft coal is considerable cheaper. Our dealers have had more or less of a supply all winter. Wood has been plentiful on the market at from five to eight dollars per cord.

Labor is well employed and well paid; no laborer need be idle unless it is his voluntary wish. Farm hands are very scarce; a good, willing, able-bodied young man can easily get work on the farm at from twenty-five to thirty dollars per month and board, and possibly have his horse kept besides.

The space you devote to the discussion of the new system—"consolidation of the district schools," is certainly well employed. This subject is but the natural product of the times, in communities where advanced ideas are allowed to flourish and grow. Consolidation of the rural schools has been effected in Massachusetts and some of the eastern states for years, with evidently great success, and the promoters of this movement in your state and in Illinois, will not have to live long to see this new system in vogue, and not only in these states, but also in many others. It is sure to come, as it is inevitable and a sign of the times. The rural youth, under the old system, never had a fair chance in the struggle for knowledge when compared with his city cousin. That he has outstripped the latter and is still doing so, is certainly commendable. But we have reason to expect still more from him when given the advantages of careful and systematic training from the start, by very efficient teachers. The idea of consolidation carries with it—better organization—such as grading and classifying. It will call for, and evolve better teachers; it will develop better school officers. Better, because they would have some business to attend to—creating business interest. Better school officers would lead to better school equipment in the line of text books, libraries, apparatus, etc. The school grounds, too, would be devoted to experimental farming—a necessary adjunct of the rural school.

Every child should be brought into contact with the best literature the world affords. The child of an artistic bent of mind should not in the start, be given inferior pictures, or models to imitate or mould from. The child with musical tendency should have the best from the start.

The rural youth has been at a great disadvantage in the struggle in the past. We hope he may have an equal advantage in the matter of acquiring knowledge, with his city cousin, in the future. J. M. STIFFLER, Freeport, Illinois.

Farmers Take Notice.

Just received a car load of smooth and barb fence wire; fifty roll Poultry Netting from two to six feet wide; which will be sold at prices that will surprise everybody. Come at once, it won't last long. All wire and netting must be sold for cash or its equivalent.

O. T. KORMAN, Spring Mills.

DEATHS.

MRS. JANE B. LEE.

Mrs. Jane B. Lee died Friday, Feb. 27, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Royer, in Nittany Valley. Mrs. Lee's maiden name was Livingston; she was born May 13, 1824.

She and her husband, John Lee, spent their married life in Penns Valley, as farmers, until his death, Jan. 10, 1892. After the death of her husband Mrs. Lee spent her time in the homes of her married children till March 18, 1895. On this day while at the home of her son James she fell down stairs and fractured her left hip bone.

From this accident she recovered sufficiently to be able to walk with the aid of crutch and cane. In Nov. of the same year, however, in passing to her room she fell again and fractured the right thigh bone and also split the hip bone. Soon after this second accident she became so sick with grip and pneumonia that for weeks her life was despaired of. Although she finally recovered, these complications interfered with the proper healing of the broken bones, and so she never again regained the power to walk and could be moved only by the aid of others.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

There is a flood of counterfeit nickels in Lock Haven.

John A. McClenahan elsewhere advertises wheelbarrows for sale.

Grant Hoover, the insurance man of Bellefonte, was in town Monday.

Mrs. Keller, wife of Harry Keller, Esq., Bellefonte, has returned from Cuba.

Miss Mazie Frank, of Centre Hill, spent Sunday at the home of Miss Grace Lee.

Merchant O. T. Korman, of Spring Mills, will have fresh fish each Friday and Saturday during the season.

Andrew Carnegie donated \$1000 toward the organ fund of the Lewisburg Reformed church. The organ is to cost \$2000.

Unknown persons blew out a boom at the headwaters of the river with dynamite and set two million Williamsport logs afloat.

The Review of Reviews for March opens with an editorial tribute to the late Dr. J. L. M. Curry, the veteran leader of the movement for popular education in the South.

Mrs. W. H. Stiver Monday returned from Hublersburg where she had been visiting for about a week. She was accompanied to her home in this place by Paul Carner, a nephew.

Mrs. Phoebe Yearick Sunday evening, on her way home from church, fell and injured her arm to such an extent that it was necessary to bandage the same. Monday she was obliged to remain in bed.

Rely Bower, of Rote, and Esta Smith, of Millheim, were united in marriage at the home of the bride on Wednesday evening last. Miss Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Smith, of Millheim.

Miss Jeannette Furey and Harry Irwin were married at the home of the bride's step-father, W. H. Flory, at Pleasant Gap, Saturday evening, by Rev. Salter, of the Methodist church. The groom is a Bellefonte grocer.

E. L. Orvis, Esq., is president of the Hayes Run Fire Brick Company, which has recently applied for a charter. The concern has a capital stock of \$100,000. The kilns will be erected along Hayes Run, along the Beech Creek railroad, this county.

M. F. Rossman, one of the retiring school directors of Potter township, was a caller Tuesday. Mr. Rossman contemplated visiting several schools on that day. He is interested in school work, and during his directorship gave to public schools considerable of his time.

James A. Keller, of near Centre Hall, and George L. Goodhart, of Centre Hill, secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, P. of H., are attending a meeting of the executive committee in Bellefonte today, Thursday.

Rev. Samuel G. Dornblaser has resigned as pastor of the Monroe Avenue Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio, to accept the St. Mark's charge, Hagerstown, Md. Rev. Dornblaser is a brother of Miss Puella Dornblaser, of Nittany Valley, well known in Lutheran missionary circles.

Rev. A. D. Potts, of Petersburg, is ill with pneumonia and ulcerations of the bowels. His condition beginning of the week was serious. Rev. Potts is well known in Centre Hall, from which place he moved to Petersburg, and his friends here will regret to learn of his illness.

The order of Patrons of Husbandry throughout the state is making a united effort to defeat the Snyder minimum teachers' salary bill. The Patrons claim that the bill takes from the taxpayers a right to govern local affairs, and that the additional tax occasioned by the bill would be a burden that many districts would be unable to bear.

The executive committee of the Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Patrons of Husbandry, is in session today (Thursday) in Bellefonte. The regular business of the committee—examining and passing on policies—will occupy the entire day. The advisability of making Centre Hall the meeting place of the executive committee is being seriously considered.

Ex-Sheriff Brungart, now deputy to Sheriff H. S. Taylor, was in town Thursday of last week. He is highly pleased, as chairman of the County Democratic Committee, over the result of the recent local election in the county. The party which did him honor, and whom he is now serving with such great earnestness, was successful in electing its full share of local officers.