



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

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

[To be Continued]

CHAPTER V. THE PRISONER'S STORY.



A CONFEDERATE SHARPSHOOTER.

When all were satisfied that the five shares were exactly equal, one of the men would turn his back to make the distribution. The sergeant would point to one of the heaps and ask, who gets this? The soldier facing the other way would answer prominently, by number, till all were taken.

Then the mess sergeants would bring their portion to the mess, where a blanket, (always lousy, of course) would be spread out, and the supply would be divided into twenty equal shares. When all were satisfied that the twenty shares were exactly alike, one of the mess would turn his back and call out each man's share by number, as it was pointed out behind him.

While the rations were "short" they were sufficient to support life, and while we were always hungry, no soldier starved to death in rebel prisons. But many died for want of suitable food. A northern man raised on variety and wheat bread, will not flourish on corn alone; while a southern man will. History tells us that "Gen. Washington rose early, ate his breakfast of corn-cake, honey, and tea etc., and he was fat."

The beating of the drum announcing meal time, was always greeted by the hungry prisoners with the wildest demonstrations of joy. They would cheer and yell; clap their hands, run through the streets, just like children overjoyed at the prospect of even so plain a meal as was common here. In the same dirty, lousy blankets under which we slept, were carried out our sick, and brought in our corn bread, which was also shared out on them.

The Confederate Government, as early as 1863 was in most desperate straits at home. The common and poor people of Richmond had less to eat than we had. Bread riots during the fall and winter of 1863 were of frequent occurrence, and matters later on must have been much worse.

The Union Cavalry, in great force, frequently circled Richmond, destroying railroads and train loads of supplies, so that for weeks at a time no supplies worth counting would come in, and, in consequence, scarcity, want and hunger would stalk the streets of Richmond, and the hungry, half starved people would gather in great crowds in the streets, and seize anything to eat in sight, and a bread riot would soon develop. These bread riots were sometimes great, and of a most serious character. One of the most serious of these occurred on Oct. 25th, 1863 and broke out again on the 29th. Bells were tolled, fire alarms were sounded, and the companies turned out; all of the available troops about the city were called out, and the riot was put down with an iron hand.

The poor of Richmond were suffering for want of bread, and supplies for the prisoners had to be sent through the streets under a strong guard, to prevent the poor hungry men, women and children from seizing them.

The condition of affairs here, becoming known to the National Government, a large amount of the U. S. Army crackers was sent here for the Union Prisoners, and were issued to us by the Confederates, at the rate of three crackers a day, in addition to our regular allowance of corn bread, and they never tasted better. The U. S. Army cracker is one of the very best crackers, for a "bread cracker," ever made.

Joseph G. Ienberg, a former Sheriff and Associate Judge of Huntingdon county, died Friday evening at Martinsburg, W. Va., where he had been visiting. Interment was made at Huntingdon. He was prominent in Republican politics in his county.

QUICKWORK IN PANAMA REVOLUTION

That the Panama revolution was planned and engineered from Washington hardly admits of doubt. The revolutionary government, not a week old, has issued a call for a constitutional convention to meet this week, and has appointed as minister to Washington a prominent French financier and a leading stockholder of the French Panama Company, which company is to bag forty millions of dollars of American canal money. A president is to be at once elected for the new republic, and a treaty made with the state by which the United States will exact the canal rights in dispute with Colombia and presumably pledge the ten millions of dollars we originally offered to pay Colombia for such rights.

Then we are commencing to hear from the other side. Colombia is angry and indignant, and will break off diplomatic intercourse with Washington and make vigorous protest to all the other nations of the world against the successful secession accomplished by the countenance and aid of the Washington administration. Senator Morgan, of Alabama, at the approaching session, with other leading senators, will oppose the administration program and predicts war with Colombia as its result, necessitating the maintenance on the isthmus of large and expensive naval forces. Our warships are gathering there, and marines have been landed and are ready for landing in considerable force.

President Roosevelt has been "rushing things" with his boasted strenuousness, and if the United States is not involved in another war and with ugly complications with several South American powers, and possibly some European, it will not be his fault. Without consulting the people or Congress, and acting in hot haste, the administration is having such defense as it deems necessary telegraphed broadcast. Looming up in the future are expenditures of hundreds of millions, with French, American and South American speculators and adventurers. And to add to that, as Senator Morgan declares, war with the republic of Colombia. The American people will be reinforced in their conviction that they have a very unsafe and uncertain President. But Colombia is a weak state; why not show our powers in grand larceny?

WHITE IMMIGRATION SOUTH.

The current number of the "Forum" magazine has an article maintaining that the tide of white immigration is setting in strongly toward the Southern States, particularly to the Gulf States. Within the last five years on this authority more than 70,000 persons from the Northern and Middle States have settled in the country between New Orleans and Corpus Christi, Texas. This marks the movement of white Americans, while as to the incoming of foreigners it is stated that within the last year nearly 5,000 immigrants from foreign countries have selected homes or secured employment along the line of a single railroad south of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi. What was once known as the black belt of Virginia is being settled up, owned and tilled by white farmers.

The used-up lands of the Old Dominion are being reclaimed, enriched and improved, and the region made as productive and prosperous as some of the rich lands of the West. It is an encouraging indication of widespread and general prosperity that the South is getting a move ahead in this respect. There is no doubt Southern lands offer a field for the investment of capital and for honest labor, with the certainty of rewards that promise to break down race prejudice and sectional walls.

The Democrats in Centre county might learn a useful lesson from President Roosevelt, who although a very busy man, went many miles to vote. In this county many hundreds of Democratic voters were too indifferent to spend a half hour's time in going to the polls.

President Roosevelt is entering halfheartedly into the work of "turning the rascals out" of the post-office department. The work will not be finished until after March 4, 1905, when there will be a wholesale cleaning. The broadside Roosevelt got in New York last week indicates that.

Pure Food Commissioner Warren has ordered 365 suits brought against men who, it is alleged, sold adulterated liquor in many counties in the State. Of the samples examined 85 per cent. contained salicylic acid. The persons against whom the suits are brought will not know it until they are placed under arrest.

For sick headache try Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets; they will ward off the attack if taken in time. For sale by C. W. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills.

OUR FARMER YOUTH and the PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By Prof. Willet M. Hays, University of Minnesota.

Forty years have been necessary for the experimenting with and the development of collegiate courses in agriculture in our State universities and State colleges. During the past fifteen years, experiments have been successfully carried out in establishing large agricultural high schools, and in a third as many years of trial consolidated rural schools, with free transportation, have been successfully inaugurated in numerous localities. Once our educators generally realize the practicability and the far-reaching importance of these three classes of schools, they will, doubtless, lead the people to adopt them and to arrange them into an articulated system. As city primary graded schools, city high schools, and university and college courses have been articulated into a unified system, so the consolidated rural school, the agricultural high school, and the college of agriculture can be articulated into a parallel system. The one, with its industrial side strengthened, will serve the city life, and the other will serve the country life, and without very serious loss of time to the student who so desires can transfer from one system to the other. The whole system of American education thus unified will become as useful to country people as to city people.

CONSOLIDATED RURAL SCHOOLS. In Ohio and other States, and in Canada, consolidated rural schools, formed by consolidating from five to ten former country "districts," are centered in buildings of from three to five rooms, to which the children are carried in vans from areas four to five miles square, and have proven their general superiority. The writer was changed from a doubter to an advocate by making a thorough inspection of a number of these consolidated rural schools in Ohio, and he has yet to hear of any one who has made a thorough inspection who does not believe that this form of school, in all regions where good soil make farming profitable and supports a fairly dense rural population, will largely displace the little schoolhouse. These schools are superior to the honored little school in the following ways: 1. The course can be lengthened so as to include the freshman and sophomore years of high school work. 2. Children remain in school longer, are not so often tardy, truant, or absent, and the school year is lengthened, thus increasing the total number of "days' schooling" secured by the people of the district. 3. These schools, requiring fewer but better teachers, who are better supervised, and have their work better systematized in grades, can give better instruction. 4. Pupils are less exposed to storms and have less wet clothing; the schoolhouses are better heated, lighted and ventilated, have more appliances, and may be situated on demonstration grounds, where practice lessons in agriculture may be provided for. 5. The future farmer becomes acquainted with the people of the township, instead of a small school district; the whole community is drawn together, the school vans often serving to carry parents and children to lectures, entertainments, and even to church services. 6. The "chores" and other industrial work on the home farm, which gave the education of the little school half its value, are here retained as an exceedingly important educational adjunct to the rural school. 7. Such schools help to retain more of the best people in the country homes, and will articulate with agricultural high schools. 8. While the combined cost of the vans, teachers and schoolhouse may be a little above that of the old way, the cost is less per day of attendance, and far less per unit of value received by the district. It pays in dollars and cents, pays in the better civilization, and the sooner adopted the better.

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS. The agricultural high school, such as has been established in each Congressional district in Alabama, will serve as the secondary high school for farmers, as the city high school serves the city people. Necessity, "the mother of invention," is largely responsible for the first experiment in the line of an agricultural high school,—the Minnesota School of Agriculture. The home requirements of the boys and girls, as gradually unfolded to the teachers in that school have largely determined the direction in which the instruction has developed. The course covers three winters of six months each, leaving the student on the home farm during the six crop months, where the industrial, business and social position is retained unbroken. Eighty-two per cent. of the graduates remain in agriculture, 70 per cent. actually return to the farm. This school now has five hundred students, and the State Legislature is equipping it for double its present capacity. About one-third of the course of study in this school is devoted to common high-school studies, one-third to sciences related to agriculture, and one-third to the sciences and arts of agriculture. The equipment consists of two hundred and fifty acres of land fine buildings, live stock, implements, laboratory apparatus, etc. A force of more than thirty instructors give all or part of their time during the six winter months to instruction, which makes of this a strong school. A large, thoroughly equipped agricultural high school, such as can be easily supported by ten counties in cooperation, as is being arranged for in Alabama, will surely succeed, while a small agricultural high school, supported by a township or county, would be at a disadvantage. Neither the equipment nor the force of teachers in the county agricultural high school could be such as to satisfy so well the vigorous farm boy or girl. Since the students must be away from home, boarding in private families, or in dormitories supplied by the State, they can better afford to travel a little farther and have the advantage of the well-equipped school supported by a group of counties, and the expense per county will be less if ten cooperate in supporting the large school. The North Dakota Agricultural College, at Fargo, and the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln, have followed the Minnesota plan, and each now has an agricultural high school, with several hundred students.

While the School of Agriculture holds an annual session of six instead of nine months, nearly all of the students work the other six months in practice work in farming and home-making, generally at home, and get more of real education per year than does the average city boy or girl who attends the city high school for eight or nine months. The improvement made in the young man or woman by this three years' course of study and training is so rapid as to cause constant comment from observers. A large part of the students who enter this school expect to remain on the farm, and would not be so much attracted to other schools, and probably would not go beyond the rural school. Common experience proves that the city high school, with its nine months' work in general studies, weans country youth from the farm. It emphasizes other things, does not give special preparation for farming, and the business position in the home farm is disarranged, the result being that the student is educated away from the farm. The agricultural high school, on the other hand, has been found adapted to educate toward the farm and into good farming. Agricultural high schools will provide our rural schools with teachers, trained to carry inspiration for country life into our rural schools, while teachers trained in city high schools too often have the opposite influence.

Wants More Money. Postmaster General Payne asks that congress give him \$168,085,770 to run the postoffice department for the next fiscal year. Quite a tidy sum. It is estimated that the postal deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, will be \$8,613,709, which is almost as large as the deficit for the present fiscal year. A large part of the deficit for 1903-4 went into the pockets of the grafters and it is not unlikely that much of the funds for the fiscal year 1904-5 will go the same way. More money will be required to enlarge the free rural mail delivery system. Under proper management the money that is appropriated to the postoffice department should be used for the legitimate expenditures of the postoffice, not to enrich political favorites in the department.

Nippese Valley Postoffice Robbed. The postoffice at Bastrass, Nippese Valley, which is located in Anthony Ottenmiller's store, was entered by thieves Tuesday night of last week through a window. About \$40 in stamps and money was stolen from the postoffice, and from the store some cigars and tobacco and about \$1.50 in money were secured by the burglars. They left no clue.

Burglars failed in an attempt to crack a safe in the postoffice at Osceola Mills Wednesday night of last week. They fired several shots at a passing citizen who escaped unharmed. A policeman fired a few shots at the fleeing burglars but without any result.

For a Bad Cold. If you have a bad cold you need a good reliable medicine like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to loosen and relieve it, and to allay the irritation and inflammation of the throat and lungs. For sale by C. W. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills.

Write Grant Hoover for prices on insurance.

POLITICAL EXPRESSION.

Gregg Township Democrat Pleads for Recognition of Natural Ability.

EDITOR CENTRE REPORTER: The result of the late election in Clearfield county causes our people to think and talk about the coming election in Centre county, and especially in regard to the judgeship. The Democrats feel that by united effort, and with clean and efficient men as candidates Centre county can be redeemed. When the available men for judgeship are spoken of, there seems to be but one name mentioned—Ellis L. Orvis, Esq. Democrats whom I have heard express an opinion say, "Mr. Orvis, if he will accept." While we have other men who could fill the place, it seems to be conceded by members of both political parties that Mr. Orvis is specially fitted for the place, both by natural disposition, and a judicially trained mind, as well as by legal training, and think if he were elected he would make a clean, non-partisan and scholarly judge.

Centre county in times past has had a number of judges of whom the citizens of the county were justly proud and who had a State reputation. Among these none earned nor enjoyed a higher reputation than the late lamented Hon. John H. Orvis, and the people feel that the son could and would wear the mantle of the father with credit to himself and honor to the electors.

The earnest wish of all Democrats is that no contentions arise before the county convention, so that we may once more go into the campaign as a united Democratic party and bring our county back into the Democratic column where it rightfully belongs. If this is done, you may expect an old fashioned Democratic vote in GREGG TOWNSHIP.

A POINT IN POLITICS MADE CLEAR.

The result of the municipal election in New York has certainly made clear to all the people a very interesting question in politics. That is that the organization of the clerical and pulpit forces of a great city against a political party works for the defeat of the clerical party and the success of its opposition by great and increased majorities. Few will question that this reflects the deliberate and well-considered judgment of any great majority of the American people. And it is a righteous judgment, viewed from the political standpoint and what is best for religion. Individual action by clergymen is not objectionable in politics, municipal or National. But this is changed and a new issue created when the clergy of a great city, numbering hundreds, are banded together to defeat a political party or a certain set of political ideas. Hundreds of sermons were preached in New York before the late election to defeat McClellan because he was the Democratic or organization candidate. Not a single clerical voice was heard in his behalf. The people rejected the counsel and rejected the pulpit intimidation, for that is what it amounted to. Low's majority of 32,000 two years ago is changed to a McClellan majority of nearly seventy thousand this year. The question of morality was rejected and condemned because it had no truthful basis to rest on. The people voted their interest, the fair administration of the laws, the peace and good order of the community were safer in the hands of the Democratic party than they would be under the dictation of their self-appointed clerical advisers and would-be dictators.

Bills Introduced in Congress.

Palmer, of Pennsylvania, to regulate the trusts. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, to increase the pay of rural free delivery carriers. Tawney, of Minnesota, to prevent giving premiums with packages of tobacco.

Mahon, Pennsylvania, making \$12 the minimum pensions per month of all pensioners who have reached the age of 65.

Silver Wedding.

The following taken from the Huntingdon News, tells how they used the brother-in-law and sister of Adam Neese, of near this place: Some one said, "All roads lead to Rome," but Saturday night, October 10th, people would have thought all roads led to J. A. Dailey's home, near Sausburg, by the number of teams going there from all directions. About sixty friends gathered to honor the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their married life. After the marriage vows were renewed the guests partook of the delicacies of the season which were bountifully supplied for the occasion. After social chats, excellent music and a royal good time, the guests departed declaring they had enjoyed themselves and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Dailey the blessing of many years of usefulness and happiness.

Seasonable goods at seasonable prices—B. W. Ripka, Spring Mills.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Miss Emille Alexander, of Tyrone, is home for a week. Claudius, a little son of Philip Saul, of near Lemont, is ill.

Mifflin county has four hundred and ninety-eight miles of road. There will be a regular meeting of Progress Grange Saturday afternoon.

Haskell Treaster, of Milroy, was caught between the bumpers while shifting cars and crushed to death.

Rev. Davidson, of the United Brethren church of Bellefonte, had the misfortune to fall in descending a pair of steps, and break his arm.

Elmer Runkle, Tuesday of last week killed a fine, large wild turkey on Nittany Mountain, north of Jacob Sharsers. The bird weighed fifteen pounds.

Mifflin county has three Josephs on the judge's bench—President Judge Joseph M. Woods and Associate Judges Joseph Wertz and Joseph C. Brehman.

The Lingle foundry may be removed from Bellefonte. The proprietors will not say to what place the plant will be taken, but say they have inducements offered them by two towns.

Mrs. F. A. Carson and Miss Cordelia Acker, of Potters Mills, were in Centre Hall Friday to look after the affairs of Mr. Carson, who is busily engaged in making preparations to accompany a party of hunters.

The new stone walk along the front of the Lutheran church is a decided improvement to the general appearance in that quarter. The stones were purchased from Dr. J. F. Alexander and are the Ohio blue stone. Miss Sadie Fry, of Shingletown, who had been in several Philadelphia hospitals previously, submitted to an exploratory operation in the hospital at Bellefonte, and it was found that her appendix was all tangled up, so it was removed.

The Cummings Brothers, of Linden Hall, are doing a large amount of hay baling. They have been in the business ever since they were able to stand a bale on end, and consequently understand the work thoroughly. Miss Vera Grove, of near Centre Hill, was a caller Saturday in the interest of the Egg Hill Christian Endeavor society. Miss Grove is a daughter of W. M. Groves, Esq., and a school teacher by profession, having in her charge the Egg Hill school.

The real estate of the late Jonathan Tressler, of Linden Hall, will be sold at public sale Friday, December 11, at 10 a. m., by the executors Messrs. Joseph and Daniel J. Tressler. The attorneys are Fortney & Walker. See advertisement in another column.

A bold attempt was made about 2 o'clock Sunday morning to rob the postoffice at Patton, the hustling postmaster of which is E. Will Greene. The safe was so badly damaged that the would-be thieves could not open it and nothing was taken from the building except a shotgun belonging to the postmaster.

Dr. H. B. Warren, State Dairy and Food Commissioner, spent several days last week with Hon. L. Rhone, in this place. While here Dr. Warren, in company with T. G. Wilson, spent a few hours hunting birds. Their success was four quail and two pheasants. In another column it is noted with what earnestness the Dairy and Food Commissioner is prosecuting the violation of the pure food laws.

Speaking of the donations received by the hospital at Bellefonte, the Watchman has this to say: The ladies of Centre Hall, where they have an auxiliary, have just sent over two dozen silver teaspoons, with the "Bellefonte Hospital" engraved thereon, one dozen napkins, two tray covers and five yards of muslin. This was an especially acceptable gift as it fills a great want and is of articles that the hospital would not be likely to receive from any source not thoroughly acquainted with its needs.

Messrs. John D. Meyer, principal of the Bellefonte High School, and C. A. Heles, teacher of the second Grammar grade of that town, drove to Centre Hall Saturday, and in company with D. J. Meyer proceeded to Mr. Meyer's farm near Linden Hall, where the day was spent in hunting rabbits. They ascribe their poor luck to the fact that they observed the rule not to shoot when game was running away from them, and consequently only killed two. From information gained through Mr. Yarnell, the tenant, it is stated that the two rabbits killed had been on the farm for at least ten years, and never missed doing obeisance to the senior Meyer, when they saw him approach, and it was while the pair were doing this gracious act that they were shot down by those unacquainted with their custom.