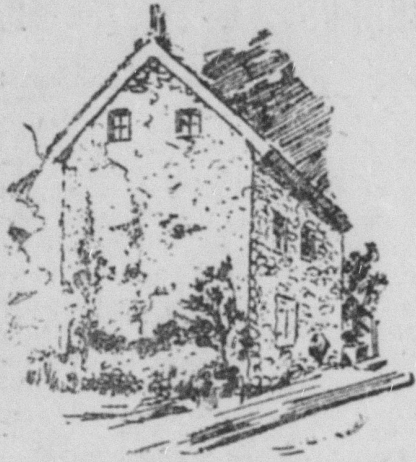




CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.
(To be Continued)
CHAPTER VI. THE PRISONER'S STORY.



[The abandoned mansion was pillaged and wrecked.]

Article VII. All prisoners of war now held on either side, and all prisoners hereafter taken shall be sent with all reasonable dispatch, to Aikens Landing on the James River, or to Vicksburg, on the Mississippi River, in the state of Miss., and there exchanged, or paroled, until such exchange can be effected, etc., etc. But nothing in this article contained, shall prevent the commanders of two opposing armies from exchanging prisoners, or releasing them on parole at other points mutually agreed on by said commanders.

Article VIII. (in part) Provides for the appointment of two "Agents" to be called "Agents for the exchange of prisoners of war," etc., and "to carry out promptly, faithfully, and in good faith, all the detailed provisions of the said article of agreement."

Article IX. And in case any misunderstanding shall arise in regard to any clause or stipulation in the foregoing articles, it is mutually agreed that such misunderstanding shall not interrupt the release of prisoners on parole as herein provided, but shall be made the subject of friendly explanation, in order that the object of this agreement may neither be defeated nor postponed.

JOHN A. DIX, MAJ. GEN. U. S. A.
D. H. HILL, MAJ. GEN. U. S. A.
The foregoing cartel and basis of exchange was one of the most liberal, and most honorable contracts ever made between peoples at war; in language so plain that it could not be misunderstood or misconstrued. It was for some time faithfully carried out by both parties to the agreement.

Up to this time the Confederates had held by far the greatest number of prisoners. But the overwhelming superiority of the North in men and means, was rapidly changing the surplus, by great odds, to the Federal side in the middle of the war, who bossed and bullied the Generals in the field, planned campaigns and ordered battles from their cushioned chairs at the Capitol, discovered that the Union soldiers captured by the Confederates could easily be replaced from "Castle Garden" by conscription, and by enlisting negroes; while the Confederates had about reached their utmost limit of available men for their army, which was rapidly being weakened by captures and battle casualties.

Now, then, they argued, that it would be to the advantage of the Federal cause to violate this cartel. (See Article IV and VI) regardless of the suffering and death it would bring to thousands of our imprisoned men. Therefore, from some one in authority in Washington the order went forth to "Stop exchange." The excuse given was, that the Confederate army would be greatly weakened, if not broken up in this way. Soon the number of prisoners held by the respective Governments was enormous. The Federal Government held, approximately, one hundred and twenty thousand Confederate prisoners; while the Confederates held about half that number. In Richmond they held four thousand; on Belle Island, Richmond, eight thousand; at Florence, S. C., twelve thousand; at Andersonville, Ga., twenty thousand; at Millen, Ga., five thousand; at Charleston, S. C., six thousand; at Salisbury, N. C., ten thousand.

Besides these, there were smaller prison camps at Blackshear, Ga., Columbus and Tyler, S. C.; Cahaba, and Danville, Va., and elsewhere. The number of prisoners held at these lesser camps are not now at hand. The number of prisoners held in all camps were constantly changing more or less but the total number held by the Confederates during 1863 and '4 were approximately sixty-five thousand. The condition of the prisoners was well

Continued at foot of next column.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEET.

The first meeting of the school directors of Centre county under the new law legalizing the association of school directors, was held in the court house, Bellefonte, Thursday and Friday of last week.

The meeting was called to order by County Superintendent Gramley, after which Senator W. C. Heinle was unanimously elected president. The vice presidents elected were Col. Austin Curtin, of Boggs township, and P. J. McDonald, of Unionville; secretary, H. C. Quigley, Esq. of Bellefonte. The first speaker was James M. Coughlin, superintendent of the Wilkesbarre public schools. His subject was "School Houses, Grounds and Sanitation." In the country districts little attention is paid to the school room and out houses with reference to sanitation.

Superintendent Gramley spoke about the heating of the school rooms. Col. D. F. Fortney devoted some time to the school grounds, and presented arguments in abundance to warrant the expenditure of a reasonable amount of the building fund for the planting of trees and general improvements and beautifying of the public school grounds.

Messrs. John A. Daley, Emanuel Noll and John T. Fowler, the committee appointed to nominate candidates for the ensuing year, reported the following:

President, W. C. Heinle, Esq.; vice president, Col. Austin Curtin, and P. J. McDonald; secretary, H. C. Quigley, Esq.; treasurer, John P. Harris; delegates to State convention, D. F. Fortney, Esq., Bellefonte; S. W. Smith, Centre Hall; Col. Austin Curtin, Boggs; E. F. Townsend, Philipsburg; L. E. Stover, Millheim. These gentlemen were all elected by acclamation.

The association meets in Harrisburg, February 10th and 11th.

Resolutions were read on the death of Samuel Brugger, of Unionville, and Hon. W. K. Alexander, of Millheim, both of whom had been active members of school boards for a number of years.

"School laws that should receive special attention" was a subject on which Superintendent Coughlin spoke at length at the Thursday afternoon session. The laws to which he devoted attention were those authorizing school boards to enforce the health laws of the state. He asserted that the spread of diphtheria was entirely out of the question, provided the health laws were properly enforced.

The township high school law was the next subject to receive his attention. Prof. Coughlin pointed out the many advantages of the township high school. One of the main points made in favor of this school was that it would enable people in the country to acquire an education at a much less expense than by any other way.

Senator Heinle made a plea for "The Township High School and Consolidation," as authorized under the law of 1901.

Director J. H. Beck, of Walker township, cited the experiences of that district with the township high school. The practicalness of the township high school was fully proved by Mr. Beck.

Superintendent Coughlin, at the evening session, talked on the subject "Co-operation of Educational Factors." Pulling together—harmony—was absolutely necessary in school work. Directors, teachers, patrons and scholars must work in harmony. The speaker touched on the subject of taxation. That phase of the subject was presented in an entirely new, novel and truthful way. Instead of taxes being regarded a burden, the individual, said the speaker, should regard it a privilege to pay to a government that provides educational facilities to all its children.

Superintendent Berkey next spoke on "Education and Labor." We must link together the school-room and work-shop in order to accomplish the grandest and most useful results. Manual training in the public schools is one step in the proper direction. The establishment of an annual convention of school directors will in a few years become of as much benefit to the public schools of the Commonwealth as have the teachers' institutes up to this time.

At the Friday morning session D. K. Keller, of Potter township, addressed the convention on the subject "Compulsory Attendance Law and how to Enforce it." His talk was to the point. He called attention to the fact that this law is a most difficult one to enforce and that in many instances the directors themselves fail to obey the law by not obliging their children to be more punctual in attendance. If the directors fail to set an example it is an impossibility for them to successfully enforce the law in the community.

Superintendent Charles Luse, of

Williamsport, spoke along the same line as did Mr. Keller.

Superintendent Gramley declared that in some districts in Centre county no effort whatever was made to enforce this law. He said the president and secretary of the school board were obliged to swear that this law had been enforced, and he hinted that he could not endorse the reports of these officers when he knew positively that the law had not been fulfilled.

"Business Management of Schools" was a subject presented by Superintendent Berkey in a most forceful manner. There were many suggestions made of great importance to directors.

Colonel D. F. Fortney advocated the "School Library," and pointed out the law authorizing boards to lay a tax of one-half mill for that purpose. He suggested a way of obtaining a list of books suitable for a school library, and cited how many valuable publications and bulletins might be gathered without any expense whatever.

Prof. P. H. Meyer and his chorus of a score or more voices, during each session rendered a number of fine selections.

The meetings of the county associations of school directors could become an important factor in creating a wholesome sentiment for education in every county in Pennsylvania. The law provides that for each director in attendance at these meetings, the county treasurer shall pay the sum of one dollar (not to exceed one hundred dollars) to the county superintendent of schools to defray the expenses incident to the institute. This sum enables the superintendent to secure two or more speakers, besides any local talent that will be willing to respond.

As stated above, these meetings could become an important factor in creating a wholesome sentiment for education.

They not only could do that, but they should do it.

They not only should do that, but would do that—IF

the meetings of the county association of school directors were held in the small boroughs and towns in Centre county.

It is an injustice to the citizens outside of Bellefonte to expend one hundred dollars for speakers to talk to an empty house, except school directors, when there is not another locality in the county, that would not furnish an appreciative audience.

It is folly to assume that discussions such as were had at the first meeting of this association, would not be of equal value to the patrons of the public schools and school directors.

It is likewise folly to assume that all localities are not alike entitled to have the meetings of this association in its midst.

The greatest good to the greatest number is a democratic expression that will apply here.

Not to be accused of pointing out error without suggesting a remedy, the Reporter will say that the greatest good from these association meetings could be had by holding them in the various boroughs and villages throughout the county, similar, if you please, to the plan adopted by the agricultural department in holding farmers' institutes.

The law speaks of two days, but since the compensation clause, other than mileage, has been eliminated, the sessions of the association may be lengthened at will without conflicting with the law. A one day or two days' session may be held somewhere on the north side of Centre county, and like sessions on the south side.

This would give a much larger number of persons an opportunity to hear educational matters discussed by persons who have made a study of school work.

Besides, this plan would be less expensive to the several school districts because of the reduced number of miles necessary to travel to and from these meeting places.

The law itself implies that this idea is correct, because it plainly states that "the county seat or some other suitable place in the county" may be selected.

It may be said, therefore, that the holding of the meetings of the county association of school directors in two sections would be productive of the best results.

Because a larger per cent. of school directors could reach the place of meeting at a nominal expense.

Because more patrons of the public schools would be privileged to attend these gatherings.

Because it is the rural districts that most need inspiration in school work.

Because, on account of less mileage, the cost to each school district would be very materially lessened.

Because the plan is in entire harmony with the provisions of the law.

Note—The Reporter will be pleased to have an expression from directors on this subject, which

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE DECISION.

The opinion handed down by the Superior Court, in Session at Scranton on 21st instant, in which it is ruled that telephone companies do not possess the right of eminent domain to erect poles and string wires along the highways of the countryside without the consent of abutting landowners, decides the point for the first time by an Appellate Court of Pennsylvania, and settles a question of much importance to the companies and to the public. In the case before the Court a telephone company, which is classed as a telegraph company under the act of 1874 giving the latter certain rights and privileges, ran its line across a farm in Dauphin county instead of following the highway, after filing an indemnifying bond to secure the owner from damages, and an injunction was granted restraining the protesting owner from interfering with the line. In dissolving the injunction the Court held that even with respect to public roads the abutting landholder has ownership in the soil of the highway which cannot be disturbed or appropriated by a telephone or telegraph company without the consent of the owner, who must be compensated for the invasion of his property.

The Court holds that the owner of a farm through which a public road has been laid out under the right of eminent domain "is as much the owner of the land occupied by the highway after it has been laid out and opened as before," and that no additional servitude, such as the planting of telephone poles, can be imposed without the consent of the owner and without just compensation.

In many instances telegraph and telephone companies have appropriated the country roads without respecting private property, without asking the permission of abutting owners to plant poles or offering compensation for the trespass. Under the decision the companies do not possess the "extraordinary" power of eminent domain, though it has been practically asserted on numerous occasions.

Occasionally the claim of the companies to exercise this right has been forcibly resisted, and serious breaches of the peace have occurred between landowners and representatives of the companies. It is remarkable that such a contentious issue has been kept open so long. Judge Beaver says, in his opinion, that it is very singular that the statute under consideration (the act of 1874) has been the law for thirty years without the assertion of the extraordinary power now claimed under it, and that this is the first time it has been brought to the attention of an Appellate Court.

Rebersburg.

The different choirs of town are preparing music for the Farmers' Institute to be held in this place February 5th and 6th.

The trappers from Georges Valley who are trapping in the mountains between Livonia and Centre Mills, are fairly successful.

E. T. Swarm and family, of Olean, New York, are visiting the gentleman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Swarm.

It is reported that J. N. Moyer had another upset last week.

The young folks of the town gave Charles Page a pleasant surprise on Saturday evening, it being his twenty-fourth birthday.

Miriam Moyer returned home from an extended visit to her sisters, Mrs. Rev. Kreider, at Penn Brook, and Mrs. Rev. Limbert, at Danville.

Smith, the Photographer.

W. W. Smith, the photographer, will be at Centre Hall Friday, 29.

will be published either over their signatures or a non de plume.

Those who followed the course of the law governing the county associations of school directors as it passed through the house of representatives and senate, are well acquainted with the provisions of that law, and should have a clear knowledge of the section providing for mileage of the directors. The bill as first introduced carried with it a compensation for directors at the rate of two dollars per day, and in that condition, the law passed the lower house of the legislature.

Without changing the wording of the law in any way, Senator Patton, of this district, moved to strike out the "two dollars per diem." This motion carried. The omission of these words left the bill read rather awkwardly, but the law states plainly enough that the director shall receive mileage, and that only.

Senator Patton took a proper view when he moved to strike out the compensation clause. When school directors begin to draw salaries, these offices will pass to those who are after the money there is in it. This cannot be disputed.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The recent thaw supplied wells and cisterns.

The commissioners, of Clearfield, have fixed the county tax rate at six and three-fourth mills.

Mrs. Sarah Tressler, of near Centre Hill, was a caller Monday. Elsewhere she advertises her property for rent.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Miles Arney, of Bellefonte, were guests of the former's parents, in this place, over Sunday.

Jacob Stine, aged eighty-five years, died at his home near Matternville. He is survived by his widow and nine children.

Recorder John C. Rowe will become a citizen of Bellefonte. He sold his merchant tailoring establishment at Philipsburg.

A company has been organized in Lewistown to construct and operate an electric railway between Belton and Temple, Texas.

Dr. H. F. Bitner, of Millersville, was in town Sunday. Dr. Bitner came to Spring Mills Saturday to visit his mother, who is ill.

Dr. W. H. Schuyler, Monday morning went to Schellsburg, to attend the funeral of Associate Judge Isaiah Conley, of Bedford county.

Sample copies of the Tri-Weekly New York World were sent to the Reporter readers last week. The World is sent to no one unless paid for in advance.

Dr. Parcels, of Lewistown, had to undergo a second operation to relieve a clogged passage which his physicians discovered in the region of the left shoulder.

There is a great deal of sickness among the workmen at Burnham, which is supposed to be caused from drinking creek water. The Burnham authorities have lately supplied the works with water from a water plant.

The Pure Butter Protective Association met in Harrisburg Wednesday night. Thomas Sharpless, of Philadelphia, is president of the body. Hon. Leonard Rhone, of this place, was also in attendance.

Friday, January twenty-ninth, is the last day for filing certificates of nominations of candidates for township and borough offices, to be voted for at the election to be held Tuesday, February sixteenth.

Judge James A. Beaver, of the Superior court, gave an opinion concerning the rights of telephone poles in public roads that is of interest to many of the Reporter readers. The substance of this opinion is published elsewhere.

Governor Pennypacker appointed seven delegates to the National Convention of American Road Builders to be held at Hartford, Connecticut, February 10 and 11. Five of these delegates are from the governor's native county.

C. U. Hoffer's family have moved from their old home into the pretty new house they have erected in Philipsburg. Mr. Hoffer is engaged with the Atlantic City Refining Company, and at present is in one of the Philadelphia offices.

Rev. James W. Boal, of Port Carbon, wrote to parties in Centre Hall, that it is his intention to move to this place next spring. It is said he will occupy the Herlach property, where Captain G. M. Boal now lives, and owned by D. Hess, of Linden Hall.

Dr. George W. Krumbine, formerly of this place, writes the Reporter from Ashville, Pa., that he has been in that place for two years, and likes the place very much, and that his practice is fully up to his expectations. Just at present the doctor is feeling jubilant over the arrival of a baby girl, who put in her appearance Saturday a week.

Montgomery & Co., clothiers, Bellefonte, advertise a great reduction sale in this issue of the Reporter. Montgomery's clothing house is well known to every reader of this paper who lives in Centre county, and no one will hesitate in going there to make a purchase on account of any unfair dealing in the past. In this great reduction sale they will maintain their past record for strict honesty in dealing with every customer.

The February Everybody's has another first-class "scoop"—nothing less than a statement of what the Democratic Party now stands for, by the new leader of the Democracy in the House—Congressman John Sharp Williams. There could be no more valuable contribution to the approaching Presidential controversy than this definite avowal of principles by the distinguished leader whose clever work in Congress has attracted so much attention.