

The Centre Reporter.

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CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1906.

NO. 21.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD MESS.
It is denied in behalf of President Cassatt of the Pennsylvania Railroad that he will resign merely because his great corporation is caught in systematic lawbreaking and his subordinate officials in systematic grafting.

To be sure, the Pennsylvania stockholders have been defrauded of what belonged to them, the public has been cheated of its rights and the laws against rebates have long been defied. Mr. Cassatt is a supereminently virtuous and correct person. Nothing should be permitted to disturb his peace of mind or self-consciousness of rectitude, not even his son's participation in discreditable business dealings or his assistants' pleasant little way of accepting valuable favors from shippers who seek favors.

If anybody but Pennsylvania Railroad vice-presidents and general superintendents had been exposed, vulgar people would say they were "out for the stuff." The officers and directors of this great corporation are guarding the great property interests of the country, which, it seems, means their own first. They can honorably swear that no rebates have been given since 1889, as Vice President J. B. Thayer did, although thousands of dollars in rebates have been paid in checks as late as 1903. Business is business in the Pennsylvania offices, although it involves grafting on the side, methodical blackmail and modified robbery.

If President Cassatt does not like this sort of thing, or at any rate does not like to have it known, and is not prepared to resign after exposure, the least he can do is to clear out the whole unsavory nest of unscrupulous officials over whom he commands. If he tolerates it he classes himself voluntarily with them.

VACCINATING SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania having for the second time affirmed the validity of the compulsory public school vaccination act as a proper exercise of the police power of the State, nothing remains for the opponents of vaccination but to comply with the terms of the law while it remains on the statute book. They can give vent to legitimate opposition by fighting for repeal at the hands of the Legislature.

Following the judicial decision, the State officials charged with the execution of the law should give the widest publicity to the dictum of the Court. Every school director and school teacher in the State should be made aware of the binding quality of the law and of the reasoning upon which the Supreme Court has affirmed it after full argument on behalf of the sincere opponents of vaccination.

That the churches in any community exercise a most potent influence for good, is conceded by all except the most rabid and blatant infidel whose egotism and self-conceit blind his mind to the inestimable value of Christianity. But to what extent are the churches valuable in this community? If all his disciples are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, the logical as well as the scriptural conclusion is that they are the light of the community in which they live. These declarations, however, do not preclude the possibility of the light going out—being hid under a bushel—or the salt losing its saltiness. But certainly no reasonable or fair-minded persons would accuse the churches of being woolly composed of united bands of hypocrites. For it matters not to what extent sin, in its many forms, may pervade the ranks of any church, you will find, within its membership, consecrated men and women. And it should be borne in mind that it only requires a few of the above-mentioned class to become the light of the community.

The act of Assembly, which provides that the State shall pay three-fourths of the cost of constructing new highways, the county one-eighth and the township in which the road is situated one-eighth applies only to townships, except in case a road is built on each side of a borough, in which, if the State would construct a road in the borough, a continuous highway would result. Under the Act of 1905, when a borough builds a section of State highway, the county does not pay any part of the cost, while the borough pays one-fourth.

Roosevelt Branded Liar.
Senator Bailey in the Senate.
"But no man ever charged that I dealt double, and no man shall ever do so and escape my denunciation. When a man shall accuse me, no matter where I may be, I'll brand across his forehead the word 'Liar' so that in after years all men may know him and all men shun him."

The New York Central Railroad Company is advertising two-cent-a-mile-charge-books, good for anybody. The Penny will do the same—shortly.

THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

News of a Semi-Local Character Gathered from the Exchange Table.

The fund for a new Masonic building at Sunbury is now \$10,000, one-third of the amount needed.

The Bucktail Regimental Association will hold its annual reunion at Driftwood on September 14 and 15, the anniversary of the battle of Antietam.

While a large bass was being prepared for cooking at a hotel in Lock Haven, a small devil fish was found imbedded in the fish. The "find" is being preserved in alcohol.

A large rat crept stealthily behind a robin on a street in Jersey Shore, caught the bird's neck in its mouth and, despite the struggle of the bird, got it safely into its hole in the ground.

An eagle was shot while it was in a field chasing sheep by Robert Donaldson, near Washington. The bird, that measured six feet and seven inches from tip to tip of wings, was making the pursuit running along the ground.

A Clearfield citizen who has been doing some figuring on the matter says that he knows of at least \$1,000,000 of Clearfield money that has been put into gold mines in the west in the past twenty-five years, and he does not know of a dollar of it coming back.

Chief Burgess Joseph M. Kerr, of Stroudsburg, took the law in his own hands and placed in the borough lock-up Bert Shook, who is accused of swearing on Main street. Shook was given five days on bread and water. Burgess Kerr, who has started a crusade against public swearing, will use the ball and chain if the offense is repeated.

The finding by the Phillipsburg hospital surgeons of three yards of gauze in the abdomen of Reuben McPherson, in re-opening the incision made by surgeons in Philadelphia for appendicitis, caused a great deal of talk at Clearfield, Mr. McPherson's home. His friends are indignant and are considering the question whether they ought not to take action in the matter.

Oliver Morris, of Hagerstown, Md., a freight engineer on the Cumberland Valley railroad, was found dead in his cab near Carlisle, Pa. The train was running at its usual speed when Morris' death was discovered. The conductor of the train noticed the collapsed condition of the engineer and on investigation found him dead. Morris was 69 years old and leaves a family. Apoplexy is thought to have caused his death.

Two deeds were recorded in Lock Haven which indicate that the lime kilns at Mill Hall will be put into operation. One deed, conveys from the Mill Hall Lime Company to ex-Sheriff H. S. Taylor all the company's property; consideration \$12,000. The other is a deed and lease from Mr. Taylor, conveying to the Nittany Lime and Stone Company all the above named property together with a lease on fifty-five acres of limestone land situated near Salona; consideration \$30,000.

A big black bear sitting in one yard is an unusual occurrence and a most unique sight, yet that is just what happened in Larry's Creek. Shortly before noon the other day the family of Charles B. Riddle, who resides on the public road only a short distance from the railroad station, were startled to see the biggest sort of a black bear sitting on its haunches out in the yard seeming to know that the law protected it from harm. Some of the family started out toward the big animal, which beat a retreat upon their advance and shambled over the hill and into the woods.

Miss Bertha Fagley, who sued W. H. Goodfellow for breaking his promise to marry her, was awarded the sum of \$4,000 by the arbitrators at Altoona. The sum which her counsel, H. Price Graffius, claimed that she was entitled to under the agreement of Goodfellow to pay her \$25 a month for the balance of her life was \$11,100. His plea was that her expectancy of life was 37 years and under the \$25 a month agreement that is the sum she would have received had she consented to accept the offer. The plaintiff will take an appeal from the decision of the arbitrators.

Kelth's Theatre.
The first appearance of the actor-author, Claude Gillingwater, in his own comedy, "A Strenuous Proposal," is drawing large audiences at Kelth's Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia. Salerno, the famous European juggler, is another great attraction there this week, as are Wills & Hassan in their acrobatic act. Other features are Snyder and Buckley, musical comedians; the four Fords, greatest dancers in vaudeville; Brockman, Mack and Belmont, in great musical comedy; Miss Latina, the beautiful poseuse; Ethel Clifton and company, Smith and Baker, Willie and Edith Hart, singing and dancing. There is also a new series of moving pictures of the San Francisco disaster.

THE PER CAPITA ROAD TAX.

Commissioner Hunter Translates the Law to Mean that a Man May be Taxed the Extra Dollar in Every District in which He Owns Property.

According to the translation of the new road law passed by the last legislature and signed by the governor April 12, 1905, "a taxpayer who pays road tax in more than one township is liable to the \$1.00 tax in each township."

Commissioner of Roads Joseph B. Hunter has expressed himself on the subject to ex-Prothonotary W. F. Smith, of Penn Township. Mr. Smith is a property owner in Gregg township as well as in Penn, and being interested, wrote Mr. Hunter for information on the subject. Commissioner Hunter's letter to Mr. Smith reads as follows:

"In reply to your inquiry of the 2d, I would say that the law explicitly requires a levy of \$1.00 tax upon every person assessed for road tax in the township. A tax payer who pays road tax in more than one township is liable to the \$1.00 tax in each township."

The act of Assembly on the subject is quoted below:

"... and shall proceed immediately to levy a road tax, which shall not exceed ten mills on each dollar of valuation; this valuation shall be the last adjusted valuation for county purposes, and which shall be furnished to said road supervisors by the commissioners of the proper county: Provided, That a greater rate than ten mills, and not to exceed ten additional mills, may be levied by order of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of that county, upon the petition of the board of supervisors, with their unanimous recommendation, and upon due cause shown: And provided further, That upon every taxable the road supervisors of each township shall assess the sum of one dollar, in addition to the millage tax above mentioned."

There is a variance of opinion on the subject; there usually is when a new law is being dealt with. Lawyers of high standing say that the \$1.00 tax is a per capita tax strictly, and can be laid but once—in the district in which the taxable has his residence.

The Standard dictionary defines TAXABLE as "a person or thing subject to a tax; as, a list of taxables."

This question can not be settled by argument in these columns, but how Mr. Hunter can come to the conclusion set forth in his letter is not clear when the wording of the law and the expression "every taxable" are properly considered.

"Every taxable" must either be construed to mean the taxable property itself or the person who owns it. Mr. Hunter takes the ground that the expression means the taxable thing.

The question of laying a tax—a millage tax—on the "thing" is disposed of in the law separately, and provides that a tax not greater than ten mills (except by an order of court) can be levied.

The law next provides to tax the person, every taxable, and says "every taxable the road supervisors shall assess the sum of one dollar, in addition to the millage tax above mentioned." But the Reporter claims that the taxable (the person) is not to be taxed one dollar additional for each piece of property he may own; he is to pay an additional one dollar, and that is all.

If Commissioner Hunter's reasoning is true he must come to a logical conclusion, and that conclusion is this: If "every taxable" refers to the "thing" taxed, one dollar additional must be laid on every "taxable thing" the assessor returns. To illustrate the result according to Mr. Hunter's reasoning assume a taxable owning a tract of land in four townships; and in the fifth township, where he resides, four more tracts, and also personal property. Then each tract of land is a taxable, and so is the personal property a taxable. The man in this illustration would, according to Mr. Hunter's version of the law, be taxed one dollar additional for each of the eight tracts of land and one dollar additional for the personal property, or nine dollars.

Mr. Hunter must be mistaken.

Not a Crime to Kiss.
The Allentown pastor who kissed one of his female members was judged by Justice of the Peace O. J. Knauss not guilty of a crime.

Justice Knauss dismissed the prosecution, but it is announced that Pastor Hawk will be rearrested. He has already been tried by a committee of members of the church, and, although acquitted, he resigned the pastorate. The congregation is divided in its opinion of the case, and its disruption is threatened.

Omitted this Week.
The "write-up" is omitted this week, but next week or week after a subject will appear again.

INCIDENTS OF 1878.

Local Items Taken from the Centre Reporter of Interest to 1906 Readers.
(Note: The spelling of proper names is the same as found in the files of the Reporter.)

FEBRUARY 21—A post office has been established at Coburn. Mr. Grenninger has been appointed postmaster.

The following persons left from Pleasant Gap and vicinity for Kansas: Mrs. Stine, J. P. Swartz and family, W. M. Zettle and family, T. E. Bigler, Frank Armstrong and G. L. Horner. The name of the bank has been changed from J. C. Motz & Co. to Millheim Banking Company, the stockholders being J. C. Motz, J. H. Reifsnnyder, A. Walter, D. Krape, John Keen, H. W. Kreamer, Dr. P. D. Neff.

FEBRUARY 28—Jerome Spigelmyer, of the Stone Mill store, purchased the Bailey store, at Rebersburg, and will remove his stock to the latter place.

The Means farm, near this place, was sold to Harper brothers for \$9,500. Colonel Coburn intends erecting a new brick residence at Aaronsburg.

MARCH 7—Will T. Richard left for Kansas last Tuesday. P. F. Keller and Mrs. Carrie Osman expect to go to that state soon.

Rev. J. K. Miller sold his store building to J. D. Murray for \$1700. Mr. Murray also purchased the drugs and will continue the drug store.

W. B. Shaffer opened a shoemaker shop in Centre Hall.

MARCH 21—John Runkle and wife started for Kansas Monday.

S. D. Musser has been appointed postmaster at Millheim.

The Odd Fellows and Masons are furnishing their lodge rooms in the bank building.

Churchville has been granted a post office to be known as Tusseyville. S. M. Swartz is the postmaster.

Rev. J. A. Bright, late of the Hubbersburg Lutheran charge, has become pastor at Jersey Shore.

John H. Harter, of Nevada, Ohio, (formerly of Rebersburg) has invented a hay fork that has many merits.

APRIL 11—Jacob Dinges has broken ground for a new two-story brick building in which he intends starting a grocery.

Colonel Reuben Keller, formerly of Potter township, is landlord of the Mountour house, Lock Haven.

APRIL 18—Isaac Miller, of Lemont, met with a fatal accident Saturday morning. He was thrown from a vehicle and died, in the evening, from the injuries received.

Isaac Grenoble moved into his large store room at Spring Mills.

Married—March 15, R. B. Trewster and Miss Lydia Zuttie, both of Potter township. . . February 23, Ellis L. Shaffer, of Madisonburg, and Miss Jennie Frank, of Rebersburg. . . January 13, Elias Heckman, of Twin Grove, Wisconsin, (formerly of Centre county) and Miss Kate Ritzman, of Orangeville, Illinois. . . February 12, D. C. Gingerich, of Linden Hall, and Miss Alice G. Stamm, of Millheim. . . February 5, James Durst and Miss Elmira Slabig, both of near Centre Hall. . . February 21, Harvey D. Van Pelt and Miss Annie Spangler, both of Centre Hall. . . February 21, John Wolf, of Potters Mills, and Miss Jennie E. Kohler, of Milroy. . . February 28, Jonas Bible, of Sprucetown, and Miss Alice C. Lee, of Centre Hill. . . March 7, George H. Homan and Miss Emma L. Neese, both of Gregg township. . . March 5, Samuel L. Ulrich, of Millheim, and Miss Harriet J. Burrell, of Haines township. . . March 10, B. W. Shaffer and E. J. Hostrman, both of Miles township. . . March 7, Henry W. Schultz and Miss Emma P. Dubis, both of Centre county. . . March 28, Henry Boezer and Miss Anna M. Derstine, both of Centre Hall. . . April 4, J. W. Heaton, of Milesburg, and Malinda Walters, of Potters Mills. . . April 9, James B. Lee, of Centre Hill, and Sallie R. Wolf, of Sprucetown.

Grand Lodge Officers.
The annual convention of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, closed at Pittsburg Thursday of last week with the installation of the following officers:

George H. Banes, grand master; B. H. Hart, deputy grand master; Christian W. Myers, grand warden; R. H. Muckle, grand treasurer; J. S. Mackey, grand secretary.

In the Rebekah Assembly Mrs. Sarah E. Coble, of Tamaqua, was installed as president, and Mrs. Mary A. Engleman, of Philadelphia, was advanced from warden to vice-president. Mrs. Inez Hall, of Meadville, assumed the duties of warden.

Lost His Purse.
A purse containing about sixty dollars, only about sixty cents of which was in coin, was lost last week by Arber J. Cumings, of near Linden Hall. Mr. Cumings is not able to designate positively where the wad was lost, but he is conscious of the fact that it is gone. While the purse contains the ready cash and might be appropriated by the finder, it is hoped that the person who finds it will be honest enough to return it to the owner.

Mr. Cumings is not sure that the purse contains anything bearing his name, but thinks there is a receipt in it from John Runkle.

Centre Reporter \$1.00 a year.

IMPORTANT BALLOT DECISION.

Judge Holds That Under Amended Law a Cross in the Party Square and Another Before Any Name Vitiates the Ballot.

The efforts of the Republicans of the First Ward at Jenkintown to contest of Philip Leasing for school director, were dismissed from court by Judge A. S. Swartz, who declares that voters who mark crosses in party squares and then vote for a candidate on another ticket vitiate their entire ballot.

This is the first decision of a court, since the ballot law was amended in 1903. At the election last February, the Election Board certified that Alfred C. Heritage who received 107 ballots was defeated by Leasing, who had polled 108 votes. Heritage's supporters contended that three rejected ballots should have been counted for Heritage for director, as all three ballots had marks for the Republican ticket on which his name appeared, and also marks for a few candidates other than that of director on the Democratic ticket. Judge Swartz says: "The square to the right of the party names is to be used only when the voter desires to cast his ballot for every candidate of that party. To put the cross mark in such square when he does not desire to vote for all the candidates under the party name is in direct conflict with the law directing when such square may be used."

"He has the choice of two methods of voting, but he cannot combine the two methods when such combination results in making additional cross marks after his right to vote is exhausted."

A Good Example.

G. W. Leshner, Snyder county's reform commissioner, investigated the claim of Edward J. Davis, of Phoenixville, for whose expert look at the State bridge above Middleburg the county was charged \$83. He "worked" one day at the look.

Commissioner Leshner did not take the word of Davis, who testified before the Fox insurance probe committee that his motto always was "If you want your money to do you good, you must earn it honestly," for his bill was cut down to \$50. Leshner apologized for his rudeness, but explained it on the ground that the Fox investigation committee, speaking about the money Davis "earned honestly" in the Insurance Department, said: "Edward J. Davis was carried upon the rolls and paid at the expense of the department the aggregate sum of \$2280, for which he rendered no service."

Emil Swensen, of Pittsburg, engineer for the inspectors, saw his bill for \$200 cut in half. The commissioners are now considering the claim of \$2599 presented by Chief Engineer Thompson. Leshner says the bill is exorbitant and must be reduced.

Farm Talk.
Corn is beginning to come up. Although there has been little rain fall since planting time, there was sufficient moisture in well prepared soil to cause germination.

While there is generally a good set of grass, the drought has hindered growth, and the grass—both timothy and clover—at this writing are very short.

Oats and barley are beginning to cover the fields, but ordinarily the plants should be more than twice their present length.

There is yet time, with favorable weather conditions, to develop all kinds of crops into a bountiful harvest.

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TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

There was a heavy frost Monday morning.

Ralph C. Pecht and Miss Anna M. Swartzell, both of Milroy, were married recently.

Perry Krise and daughter Bessie, of Potters Mills, were in town Saturday and called at the Reporter office.

The members of the Lutheran congregation are making preparations to repair their church in Centre Hall. Miss Jennie Reifsnnyder, of Millheim, is in Williamsport, the guest of the Misses Evans, formerly of Potters Mills.

After an absence of several months, Miss Annie Dinges returned from Philadelphia, and will remain during the summer.

James Hull, a carpenter of Aaronsburg, while employed at the residence of C. H. Stover, fell from the scaffolding and fractured several ribs.

Linn, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Meyer, of Coburn, broke one of the bones in his right fore-arm. The child was playing and fell, which caused the mishap.

While assisting in remodeling the house of Joseph Bitner, at Farmers Mills, William Hagen, one of the carpenters, fell from the scaffolding and sustained a serious injury.

A. S. Cole, of Susquehanna, had the misfortune to lose all his property by fire. Mrs. Cole is a daughter of Nathaniel Boob, now of Millheim, but formerly a resident of near this place.

Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D., of Shammokin, was elected a director to the Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, from the Susquehanna Synod of the Lutheran church. Dr. Fischer is a graduate of that institution.

J. C. Condo, the Penn Hall carriage manufacturer, sustained a serious loss Saturday. He was tethering his driving horse, when the rope became entangled, throwing the animal in such a way as to break one of his hind legs.

Joseph Reifsnnyder, of Millheim, represented the Millheim Castle, K. G. E., at the State gathering of that order in Reading. Mr. Reifsnnyder is much interested in the work of the order, and was highly pleased with his trip.

The Millheim Journal remarks: Another wild cat speculating institution has gone to the wall. Last week the American Reserve Bond company was placed in the hands of a receiver with no assets worth mentioning. A number of persons in this community were bitten by the concern.

Thomas F. Wolf, well known through Penn Valley on account of having represented the Osborne company in this section for several years, is seriously ill at his home at Madisonburg. Mr. Wolf is suffering from an affection of the lymphatic glands. The disease dates back to several years ago, but it is only recently that it has become most serious.

Everyone is pleased to note a determination on the part of the citizens in general, and the ladies in particular, to plant flowers and beautify the cemetery. This is certainly most commendable but there is a sequel to the story. Occasionally people visit the cemetery and pluck these flowers. Let no one pluck a flower in the cemetery. To steal from the living is bad enough but to steal from the dead multiplies the enormity of the crime.

General John P. Taylor, of Reedsville, accompanied by G. W. Bradford, spent a half hour with the Reporter Saturday afternoon. General Taylor just returned from a tour to the Bible lands, and it is not unnatural that the drift of his conversation should run in that direction. Some of the works of the ancients are marvelous, the General thinks; notably among these the pyramids and the ruins in the old cities. A tour through foreign countries, in General Taylor's opinion, seems to demonstrate more clearly that this is God's country.

"Keep it out of the paper" is the cry which the local newspaper publisher frequently hears. To oblige often costs considerable, though the party who makes the request thinks the granting scarcely worth saying "thank you" for. A newspaper is a peculiar thing in the public's eye. The news gatherer is stormed at because he gets hold of one item and is abused because he does not get another. Young men, and often young women, as well as older persons, perform acts which become legitimate items for publication and then rush to the newspaper office and beg the editor not to notice their escapades. The next day they condemn the same paper for not having published another party doing the same thing they were guilty of, forgetting apparently their late visit to the printing office.