



BASIS FOUND FOR CAPITOL GRAFT SUIT.

Charge in Prosecution to Be Fraud in Failure to Furnish Thermostats—To Be Started By Todd—Whole List of Defendants Not to Be Revealed Until the Inquiry is Completed.

Civil and criminal suits will be brought by Attorney General Todd against those responsible for the State Capitol scandal. A complete list of those who will be named as defendants will not be known until the inquiry is completed.

The suits will be based on the testimony showing that the contractor collected from the State for 752 thermostats and installed only 363, and on the substitution of domestic for Baccarat glass and an inferior glass for Tiffany favrite.

The testimony of Frank G. Harris, former State Treasurer, who was a member of the Board of Grounds and Buildings by virtue of his office, will be used as a basis for the civil proceedings.

His testimony also shows that while the more elaborate of the \$2,000,000 worth of lighting fixtures was to be mercurial gold, the bulk of those installed were merely lacquered, the latter process costing one-tenth the price of the former.

The Commission has brought out testimony to show the padding of bills of sub-contractors to the principal contractor in fitting up the attic at a cost of \$303,000, which were rendered to the State by Payne and used as a basis of payment.

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HARRIS' TESTIMONY GROUND FOR SUIT. The testimony also shows that while the more elaborate of the \$2,000,000 worth of lighting fixtures was to be mercurial gold, the bulk of those installed were merely lacquered.

As the Commission cannot finish its work in time to report to the present Legislature, as provided in the resolution creating that body, the investigators will send a report to the General Assembly which will simply be an announcement that the inquiry is incomplete and a request that its time be extended indefinitely and that it be authorized to make its report to Governor Stuart when ready.

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Former Governor Pennypacker, who was president of the Board until he went out of office last January, and was a party to all the furnishing contracts issued a public statement last fall that not a dollar was misapplied by the Board; that the building could not be duplicated for \$13,000,000; that no bill was finally settled until the article had been measured or weighed, as the schedule required, and that every bill was certified to by Huston and Shumaker as to its accuracy before paid.

written to the Commission offering to testify whenever he may be wanted.

Children's Pennies.

It is the child's impulse to buy this, that or the other thing if they happen to have the pennies for it, more because they have the few pennies, and do not really know the value of the them, than because they really want what they see.

Late Recognition.

It needs take nothing from the luster of General Grant's fame to show that circumstances contributed no small share to the achievements of his dogged, indomitable character.

Tristate Averages in North American.

You are interested in the Tristate League. Next to knowing the scores of the game, you want a chance to find out how the men are hitting and fielding, the analysis that explains the victories and defeats.

Keith's Theatre.

The great German protean player, Henri DeVries, is appearing for the first time in Philadelphia, at Keith's Chestnut Street Theatre.

Services on Spring Mills Circuit.

Rev. C. D. Dreher, of Reading, presiding elder, will hold communion services on the Spring Mills circuit of the Evangelical Association at these places: Shradler, May 8, 8 p. m.; New Lancaster, May 9, 8 p. m.; Hayira, May 10, 8 p. m.; Tusseyville, May 11, 8 p. m., and May 13, 10 a. m.; Linden Hall, May 12, 2:30 p. m.; Spring Mills, May 12, 7:30 p. m.; Mountain, May 13, 8 p. m., German. The quarterly business meeting will be held at Tusseyville on May 11, after evening services.

INCIDENTS OF 1870.

Local Items Taken from the Centre Reporter of Interest to 1907 Readers.

September 25—The members of the Cross church, Georges Valley, celebrated the hanging of a new bell in the tower of that church, Saturday, by holding a picnic at which there were five or six hundred people.

October 2—Rebersburg has a daily mail from Coburn.

Rev. Robinson has resigned as pastor of the Presbyterian charge to accept a call in Juniata county.

The new road from Aaronsburg to Coburn station is open to the public.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wolf celebrated their 25th marriage anniversary Friday of last week. A novel feature was the appearance of the bride and groom, bridesmaid and groomsmen dressed in the same garments worn when the couple were joined in holy wedlock.

September 25th the great Granger Picnic was held on Nittany Mountain. The attendance was very large, exceeding any gathering in the county.

October 9—James Spangler, of near Potters Mills, while assisting in repairing the bridge at Red Mill, had his foot badly crushed by getting it between a piece of timber and a stone.

October 16—On account of a bone tumor having formed on the left arm of Jacob Dinges, that member was amputated above the elbow.

Monday evening the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Murray was celebrated. If cupid could always make his matches so well, how many more happy homes there would be, and how golden it would prove in celebrating the silver wedding.

Rev. J. H. Shoemaker, pastor of the Aaronsburg Reformed charge, resigned to go to Emporium, Kansas.

Jerome Moyer, of Miles township, had the middle finger of one of his hands badly lacerated by being caught in a cider mill. The finger was amputated to avoid further complications.

Married—August 28, Samuel H. Weaver, of Oak Hill, and Miss Ligat Campbell, of Linden Hall.

October 6, Charles Yearlock, of Madisonburg, and Miss Jestic C. Lohr, of Gregg township.

October 5, John Kesigle and Miss Barbara Alwright, both of Potters Mills.

October 9, Wm. H. Working and Miss Rebecca J. Strong, both of Centre Hill.

October 21, Henry K. Harshberger and Lydia Confer, both of near Centre Hall.

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Snake Saves Benefactor's Life.

Remarkable Story of Ophidian Gratitude Comes out of Millin County.

The following snake story comes from Armaugh township, Millin county, and is good enough to retell.

When Edward Houghten, of that place, was preparing late last fall to do some threshing he discovered a black snake coiled about the cylinder of the machine, the reptile being exhausted by its efforts to escape.

Houghten found that one spike of the cylinder had passed entirely through the snake's body and was holding it firmly to the cylinder. The moment the machine would start the helpless serpent would be torn to pieces.

Houghten was never in love with a snake and generally killed them whenever he came in contact with them, but the helpless condition of this one appealed to his sympathies, and he liberated it, forgetting the incident and being none the wiser, thought it had probably died from its injuries.

A few days ago he was working at some machinery, and just as a wrench slipped from a bolt he was trying to loosen and threw him to the ground, he heard the warning buzz of a rattler. Upon looking up the prostrate man saw the venomous ophidian's head within a few inches of his face and coiled ready to strike.

He turned cold with horror, but before he could move a muscle there was a swish through the air from an opposite direction and a large black snake twined itself in the coils of the rattler.

In an instant the two serpents were a writhing, squirming mass. The battle was short but terrible, and in a remarkably short space of time the rattler straightened out and gave up the ghost.

The blacksnake made a feeble effort to reach Mr. Houghten's side, but was too weak, and in a few moments had succumbed to injuries sustained in the combat.

Upon turning it over Houghten found that his ophidian preserver was the same snake he had befriended six months before, the marks of the injury being plainly visible.

The rattler was three feet six inches long and had twelve rattles and a button. Upon skinning it, he found that almost every bone in its body was broken.

Mr. Houghten will preserve the body of the blacksnake in alcohol as a memento of his kindness to the reptile and the latter's gratitude in which life was the price paid.

LOCALS.

The loafer about Centre Hall is a scarce article these days.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bible, of Bellefonte, made a trip to Mt. Carmel and other points along the route.

A monument was erected over the grave of George Weaver in the Rebersburg cemetery by H. G. Sirobmeier.

Sunbury will try oil to lay the dust. It is used successfully in many towns. A sprinkling is said to last for a long time.

Mrs. F. P. Geary Sunday morning gave birth to a still-born child. Her condition since has been as favorable as can be expected.

Secretary of Internal Affairs Henry Houck will be the orator at the commencement exercises of the Bellefonte High School, Wednesday evening, May 29th.

The forty-eighth annual commencement exercises of the Mount Amoen Seminary, Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, with which institution Rev. John H. Keller is connected, will be held May 18-21.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus Sankey, of Potters Mills, were callers at the Reporter office Monday. Mr. Sankey was somewhat vexed because of the backwardness of the weather, but had reason to think he was not the farthest back with his farm work.

The ten days' trip to Northern Illinois was greatly enjoyed by B. D. Briabin, who returned the latter part of last week. While in Chicago, Freeport, Orangeville and other points in Illinois he saw many former Centre countians, all of whom are apparently prospering.

Have you resolved to do your part by cleaning up a bit around your own premises? This is a work in which there is no compensation. It is a "community of interest" idea.

Your doorway is visible to your neighbor; his to you. If yours is clean, he likes it and you like it; if his is clean, vice versa; if everybody is clean, everybody is happy. Worth trying, isn't it?

John Knorr, the senior member of the firm of Knorr & Ruth, the Reading shoe men, was in town Monday and Tuesday, and while here was the guest of his sister, Mrs. E. M. Huggert. On his return to Reading he will take with him his mother who for some time has been staying with her daughter.

Mr. Knorr's first trip in eight years to Centre Hall was mainly to introduce to the trade a new salesman who succeeds N. T. Yeocum.

FARMERS FOR DOG TAX BILL.

Will Urge in Senate Measure Which Gives Fees to Constables.

Representative Wood's bill to provide for the registration and taxation of dogs will provide a new source of revenue for assessors and constables.

The bill passed the House finally last week, and is now in the Senate.

While the bill excited derision when it came before the House and was at first defeated, the rural members had it reconsidered and passed, and they purpose to see that the Senate concurs.

The bill provides an annual tax of \$2 on male dogs and \$4 on females.

Assessors are required to collect this tax, of which they are permitted to retain 10 per cent. A numbered tag is issued by the Live Stock Sanitary Board to be worn by the taxed animal.

The constables must "capture and destroy in a humane manner" any dog not wearing a license tag, for which service 50 cents is to be paid.

The money collected, after payment to the assessors and constables, is to be used to pay "claims for loss or damage to sheep caused by dogs," or loss on horses, mules, cattle or swine, bitten by mad dogs.

Transfer of Real Estate.

Wm. T. Buck, et. ux., to Jas. Q. Williams, Jan. 20, 1898; premises in Liberty twp. \$950.

T. C. Williams, et. al., to Jas. W. Williams, et. al., Sept. 27, 1894; 1/4 acre in Liberty twp. \$1.

John M. Shugart, et. ux., to Robt. A. Beck, Feb. 26, 1907; lot in Spring twp. \$80.

Chas. W. Hoover to William Stine, April 9, 1907; lot in Phillipsburg. \$100.

Mike Delpatka, et. ux., to Mary Wiedrick, April 29, 1907; land in Rush twp. \$350.

Henry Yingling, et. ux., to Chas. A. Yingling, Feb. 9, 1907; two tracts of land in Taylor twp. \$500.

Chas. F. Cook, et. ux., to Roy Brandman, March 28, 1907; premises in Bellefonte. \$4000.

John W. Harter, et. ux., to Jas. T. Corman, Dec. 9, 1905; 1 acre, 38 perches in Miles twp. \$236.46.

John C. Jones, et. ux., to Mrs. Bessie Heverly, April 10, 1907; house and lot in Rush twp. \$625.

Eliza G. Irvin to Katharine A. Turner, April 24, 1907; 5/16th bid., Julian, \$900.

Sarah E. Garis to Homer Decker, March 7, 1907; premises in Spring twp. \$1500.

J. S. Condo, et. al., to Jennie Yarnell, et. al., July 9, 1907; land in Marion twp. \$1.

O. D. Eberts, et. ux., to Jacob Moyer, Nov. 30, 1906; 223 acres in Worth twp. \$1.

Wm. A. Hoy, et. al., to Jeremiah N. Hoy, June 5, 1905; two tracts of land containing in all 197 acres, 114 perches in Ferguson twp. \$6000.

William T. Vallance, et. ux., to Overseer of the Poor of Spring twp., April 8, 1907; premises in Spring twp. \$250.

Charters Validated.

Governor Stuart signed the bill validating the charters of religious and charitable institutions issued under the act of 1875 which do not contain the provision relative to lay members, and also striking out the provision as to the holding of real estate by aliens.

Most of the local churches were chartered under this act, and measures had been taken to have their charters amended, which will now be unnecessary.

Not Deaf Tom.

The description of the men arrested for the robbery of the Falls Creek post office does not tally with any of the tramps or umbrella menders seen in this neighborhood previous to the cracking of the safe in the Centre Hall post office. The men at Falls Creek were all less than thirty-five years old, and clean shaven. "Deaf Tom" was not in that gang.

Blair County Fair.

Blair County Pomona Grange has completed an organization for the purpose of holding a county fair this coming fall. It is the aim of the association to hold a first class fair at Hollidaysburg, where control of the fair grounds has been secured and an ample bond guaranteeing the payment of premiums and expenses has been furnished.

Ballers-Kreitzers.

Joseph Baller and Miss May Kreitzer, both of Reedsville, were married last week, and expect to go to house-keeping at Reedsville. The bride is formerly from Potter township. The groom is employed at the Standard Steel Works and makes good money.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Good results are being obtained from the curfew law in Bellefonte.

The concrete abutments for the bridge in Millheim are about completed.

Sale of household goods, etc., at the Lutheran parsonage, Centre Hall, Saturday afternoon.

Perry Alters, formerly of this place, recently accepted a position in an express office at Genoa, New York.

The heirs of Mrs. Mary E. Snook, deceased, have sold the house and lot on Penn street, Millheim, to George B. Stover.

Bellefonte was well represented in Centre Hall Sunday. Bellefonte people are just like the rest of the world—they want to know what's doing.

If you are in possession of a bit of local news, please impart it to the Reporter. The reader will thank you for it. Give the news to the Reporter.

The mechanics employed in the Crider planing mill, Bellefonte, went out on a strike Wednesday of last week. They made a demand for higher wages.

George H. Stewart, of Shippensburg, has been appointed by the governor to be a manager of the State Industrial Reformatory, at Huntingdon, vice Alexander Port, deceased.

Harry W. Frantz, who about two years ago bought the Wilson farm at Earlstown, had the misfortune to lose a fine two year old colt, worth one hundred dollars or more.

Wm. S. Sellers, of Buffalo Run, is at the Dominion Sanitarium, Williamsport, to have the x-ray applied to a sore under his nose which his attending physician has diagnosed as cancer.

Contractor Aaron Thomas and his force of men began remodeling the Odenkirch farm barn at the Old Fort, owned by W. Frank Bradford. The remodeling will be extensive, and will include a large manure shed.

Harry E. Bible, of Altoona, who holds a good position in a large general store as chief clerk, was home to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Bible, at Centre Hill, for a few days. He thinks Altoona is all right.

Rev. Theodore S. Faus, who was a former pastor of the Penns Valley M. E. charge, while on his way from Lumber City, Clearfield county, to his new appointment at Elysburg, spent a short time with friends in Centre Hall.

A tale of the good luck of two fishermen comes from Hyner, Clinton county, where Hugh Runkle is engaged at the Boyer lumber camp. Mr. Runkle writes that he and Mr. Boyer captured 132 trout in one day, the same measuring from seven to eighteen inches in length. Surely, that's a fine catch.

Sunday was a beautiful day, although the air was brisk. There was much pleasure driving and general hubbub, quite contrary to the usual quietness of Sundays in Centre Hall. There was reason for all this, but the blame can't be placed on the weather man for having cut out a lovely May day.

There must certainly have been growing weather in Oklahoma some time since the break of winter to develop the over two-foot-long alfalfa, a sample of which is displayed in the Reporter window, and sent here by S. J. Krader, of Mountainview Oklahoma. Alfalfa is a very important crop in the west, and is gradually extending eastward.

When horse dealers get frightened at the high prices asked for horse flesh in the horse markets, there is no wonder farmers get long-faced or losing a good filly or work horse. D. A. Grove, the Lemont horse buyer, was in Buffalo recently, having gone there to buy a car load of the faithful animals, but on finding the market ruling exceptionally high, he turned his attention to cattle.

The Lock Haven Daily Democrat of Thursday contained the following: Three suspicious looking characters, who talked somewhat with the description of the men who robbed the Centre Hall post office were under surveillance in this city this morning. They were followed by several officers to the lumber yard at Hipple's planing mill, where about 8:30 o'clock they boarded a west-bound freight train.

Mrs. Shreffler, accompanied by her two daughters, and Miss Grace Runkle, of Williamsport, last week were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Shutt, in Centre Hall. Mrs. Shreffler is the wife of John C. Shreffler, who will be remembered as having spent his boyhood days in Centre Hall. He is now employed in a silk mill, and is getting along very nicely. He was always an industrious young man, and had the knack of tackling work in a workmanship manner.

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Teachers May Get More Pay. A bill passed the house increasing the minimum salary of school teachers from \$35 to \$40, and those holding permanent or Normal certificates \$50 per month, the excess to be paid by the state.