

The Centre Reporter.



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NO. 44.

FOREST FIRES.

The Mystery of How They Originate—The National Government is Making an Investigation of the Cause.

What starts these forest fires? This question has been asked over and over again this summer by readers of the accounts of the destructive fires which have been raging in all parts of the country.

Campers and locomotives, is the usual answer. Many of the other things which start blazes in the forest are forgotten. It is true that perhaps one-half to three-fourths of the forest fires do begin as a result of the carelessness of some camper, or from sparks flying from locomotives, but there are a number of things which set the woods afire.

A complete report of forest fires on the private forests of the country and their causes is not kept by anyone. Uncle Sam, however, is most careful to account for the damage done by the blazes on his timberland, under forest administration, aggregating about 168,000,000 acres, and each year the total area burned over, the timberland burned over, the amount of timber burned or destroyed and its value, the cost of fighting fires and the causes of fires are carefully checked up. These reports are made at the end of the calendar year, and the announcement of this year's losses will therefore not be known for more than two months.

Last year's figures, however, give a good idea of the things which cause fires in forests. Of the 1,355 fires discovered on the National Forests last year, all of which were checked by the rangers before they had burned over fourteen hundredths of one per cent. (1.4 of 1 per cent.) of the National Forest area, campers caused 364, while railroads followed next with 273; lightning came next with 176; dinky engines used in lumbering operations, fourth, with 65; careless brush burning by homesteaders clearing land, 34; fires caused by incendiaries and those set by herders and hunters, 30. For more than 400 of the fires the cause is not known. This is not strange when it is remembered that a fire may smolder for days, if the air is too thick to permit the smoke to be seen at a distance before it breaks out when fanned by the wind so as to reveal its presence to the watchful forest officer.

While campers caused more fires than locomotives last year, there are many seasons when the railroads hold undisputed claim to first place. Forest fires started by both are mostly unnecessary. If campers would exercise care in starting camp fires and be sure that they are extinguished before they are left, and if the railroad companies would use the most modern and efficient spark arresters, it is reasonable to think that the annual forest fire loss could be reduced more than one-half. Lightning ranks third among the causes of fires, and of course, man has no greater responsibility in this than to put the fire out as soon as possible after discovery. Careless brush burning by homesteaders and persons clearing land was the case within a sixteenth mile of the borough limits of Centre Hall two years ago, is said to be the cause of many of the fires which have started this year, particularly those which have swept over the Lake States.

The ranger force on many of the National Forests have been kept busy fighting fires which, if left to run unchecked, would have done incalculable damage. By quickening communication between important points through the construction of the telephone lines, and building roads and trails, the National Forests have been made more accessible during the past two years and fire fighting has been greatly facilitated.

Weddings to be.

The date for the wedding of Col. James A. McClain, of Spangler, and Miss Emma Holliday, of Bellefonte, has been set for next Wednesday. The wedding of Clarence Swarr Gachaner, of East Petersburg, Lancaster county, and Miss Margaret Brachbill, also of Bellefonte, will take place early in December, and that of Ray Acheson, of Niagara Falls, and Miss Agnes T. Shaughnessy, of Bellefonte, immediately after Christmas.

Meeting of State Grange.

The Pennsylvania State Grange will hold its annual convention in Altoona during the week of December 7 and the indications are that it will be the biggest convention ever held in that city. The Grange has grown in the past four years to such an extent that the membership has almost doubled and it is expected that between four and five thousand people will be present. There is little doubt in the minds of those engaged in making preparations and arrangements that it will be the biggest convention ever held by the organization.

Advertise in the Reporter.

DISCOURSE ON LOCAL OPTION.

Reformed Minister in Centre Hall Treats the Subject With All Fairness.

Rev. Daniel Gress, pastor of the Centre Hall Reformed church, Sunday evening gave a discourse on Local Option, treating the subject with such fairness and honesty of conviction, that the Reporter gives the sermon space in its columns. Rev. Gress said:

(PART I.)

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

These are the warnings of a very wise man, whom we call Solomon. America has been called a temperance land. One would hardly believe that in this land drunkards would starve their children, and intoxicated men beat their wives, and that workmen would stagger forward, borne down by taxes incident to pauperism, disease and crime. Indeed it is hard to make oneself believe that there are one hundred saloons to one high school building, a score of saloons to one church. But men who have charge of our government are politicians, and some of them are practical men, and some are statisticians at Washington may be conceded to be fairly accurate.

Our best students of economics tell us that five-sixths of all our pauperism comes from drink; four-fifths of all our crime springs from the same source; that for the drink traffic, we would close up nine jails out of ten in the whole country. The influence of drink on the health of the people is even more astonishing. Every year it costs our country a hundred thousand lives.

In terms of industrial losses, the saloon evil, through crime, pauperism, jail, police officials, law courts, disease and death, involves a waste for this country every year equal to \$1,800,000,000. It is this waste and sorrow through the drink evil that explains the great temperance wave now rolling over this country.

The deterioration of the English physique through drink and the revelations incident to the failure to obtain soldiers for the South African war partly explain the similar movement now sweeping over England. One thing is certain, the people of our land are now entering upon an era of discussion as to the liquor traffic, and are beginning to think what is for their welfare.

We shall understand this problem better if we begin with the fact that the Teutonic peoples represent the descendants of men who were immune to drink. For one thousand years nature, through her relative agencies, has been destroying the unfit, and the weak have gone down. The three diseases or forces that have brought out this tragedy are consumption, smallpox and alcoholic liquor. The Indians, the Arabs, the Patagonians and Polynesians have all gone down. Their death represents a tragedy more terrible than all the wars. When those three great plagues swept over Northern Europe, centuries ago, only men who were immune and proof against them survived. These immune descendants increased, and though a small percentage of their children are still liable to death by these diseases, most of us survive them. Our generation, therefore, represents ancestors who were immune to alcohol and to certain parasitic diseases. And to this consideration which is based upon ancestral habits and drinking customs, must be added considerations of climate. In Mohammedan countries drinking is unknown. The worshiper of Allah puts his soul in peril of everlasting hell by touching a drop of wine. But once you cross the climate works toward different customs.

But why do we condemn the drinking custom as useless and harmful, and seek to get rid of it? What does alcohol do that we call it an enemy, and say at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. For more than a generation our physicians and scientists have been experimenting in the laboratory, and we know now just about exactly what alcohol does for man. In the way of experiment drop a raw egg into a glass of alcohol, and you will find that one way to cook an egg is to put it in boiling water, the other way is to put it in cold alcohol. Alcohol has a fierce thirst for water, and drinks it up, thus hardening the egg. Alcohol acts in a similar way upon the brain. Put any powerful drug into the body and there is a point toward which it will rush. One drug will start toward the liver and stop there. One will go to the heart as

A Malicious Story.

An exceptionally rank and malicious story was circulated in portions of Penns Valley, last week, to the effect that H. I. Foust, tenant on the Wilson farm along the pike, this side of Spring Mills, discovered a man in his corn field hauling therefrom a two-horse load of corn; that Mr. Foust was armed with a gun, and seeing an object moving, drew aim and fired; that the contents of the weapon, instead of striking a man hit one of the horses hitched to the wagon of the thief, and that on the following day the injured animal was killed to put it out of misery.

The story had gained wide circulation, and was told without qualifications. The editor of this paper, not content with hearsay, personally called on Mr. Foust and made inquiry as to the truth of the story. Mr. Foust at once stated that there was no ground whatever for the rumor, and that the story was false in every detail; that he and the man who was thus slandered were on the boat of terms, and that they frequently did favors for each other.

Mr. Foust stated further that he had first heard of the story on the day that the writer interviewed him, and that he had, upon the advice of a friend, contemplated coming to Centre Hall with the view of having the malicious story denied through these columns. Consequently this item appears here at the solicitation of Mr. Foust.

LOCALS.

The principal thing in life is the helping of others.

Snow was seen flying in the air as early as October thirtieth.

It wasn't Wilkes-Barre but Scranton to which Andrew Gregg and family of Centre Hall removed, last week.

Mrs. Mary Shoop is in Harrisburg where she will remain for the winter, preferring to live in the city during the cold weather.

Any one in Centre Hall and vicinity wishing outdoor photographic work done should apply to the Centre Reporter. All work must give satisfaction before payment is asked.

After casting his vote in Millin county Tuesday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Jared Mowery, of Yeagertown, started for Youngstown, Ohio, where they will make their home for the present. Mr. Mowery formerly lived in Centre Hall and is a wood-worker, and a good one at that.

John H. Bitner, of Tusseyville, who for two years has been in Philadelphia in the employment of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, in the capacity of a street car conductor, is home for the winter. Monday he and his mother, Mrs. William Bitner, were in Centre Hall, the guests of the family of D. K. Geiss.

Miss Lizzie Snyder was stricken with paralysis Saturday and since has been dangerously ill. For forty or more years, Miss Snyder has made her home with the Alexanders, and since Mr. and Mrs. James Alexander moved from the farm to Centre Hall, she has been living with their daughter, Mrs. Elmer Royer, at which place she is lying ill.

The election is over. The majority of people knew, in advance, just what the result would be, but for conscience sake refrained from taking even a small bet. Others, in consideration of the feelings of their neighbors, simply kept their information to themselves until the election returns came in. These were very conscientious; very charitable.

One day last week a horse belonging to James Goodhart, south of Centre Hall, became impaled on a fence, and was unable to extricate itself until Mr. Goodhart and several other men assisted it. The result was the animal was badly injured, and to such an extent that the bowels protruded. Veterinary Surgeon Fry was called and after the wound was dressed, and the outer opening sewed up, the animal was much relieved. It is thought there will be no bad results.

straight as an arrow, but alcohol goes straight toward the brain.

Medical experts have examined the brains of drinking men after death, and dipping the liquor out of their brains, they lighted it with a match, and it burned with a blue flame. The brain of the drinking man is hardened under the constant influence of alcohol, as an egg is hardened or cooked. All the blood vessels are hardened and made brittle.

The second influence of alcohol upon the body can best be described by the expression, it takes off the brakes and lets the heart run wild. Certain nerves control the heart. These nerves are paralyzed by alcohol, and the heart runs wild and free, beating 125 times a minute, when it should beat 75 times. This gorges the brain with blood until the man is unconscious, or without self-control.

[Concluded next week.]

PENN. STATE LIBRARY.

New Books at Grange Arcadia for the Reading Public.

For two years or more a branch of Pennsylvania Free Library has been conducted in Grange Arcadia, under the management of Progress Grange. These books are sent here free of cost, and are given out to readers who for a nominal sum paid, have a membership card. New books have just been received, the authors and titles appearing below:

Abbott: Christianity and social problems
Andrews: Militants
Crawford: Proverb stories
Austen: Sense and sensibility
Allen: North Pacific
Atkinson: Bookkeeping for farmers
Balzac: Cousin Betty
Barr: Jan Vedder's wife
Baskett: Sweetbriar and thistle-down
Blanchard: Three pretty maids
Belloc: Emmanuel Burden
Besenfeld: Endymion
Burnham: Sweet clover
Bunner: Suburban sage
Catherwood: Lady of Fort St. John
Crane & Barr: O'Ruddy
Cabell: Eagle's shadow
Child: Friend or foe
Coolidge: Clover
Cornell: Ardath
Couch: Fort Amity
Crissey: Country boy
Crockett: May Margaret
Crawford: Saracinesca
Dondlinger: Book of wheat
Dillon: In old Belaire
Deland: Josephine
Dickens: Our mutual friend
Drake: Battle of Gettysburg
Gallaher: Best Lincoln stories
Hoare: Arctic exploration
Johnson: Farmer's boy
Leah: Nonsense songs and stories
Malloy: Romance of royalty, 2v
McClintock: Nedra
MacGrath: Enchantment
McBean: Marjorie Fleming
Mural: Kibum Dalzin
Osborne: Baby Bulletin
Powell: Hedges
Robins: Come and find me
Spearman: Strategy of great railroads
Sumner: Alexander Hamilton
Stevenson: Familiar studies of men and books
Stevens: Around the world on a bicycle
Smith: Color line
Watson: Mind of the master
Wagner: My appeal to America
Warner: In the wilderness

LOCALS.

Isaac Smith, of near Madisonburg, attended the reunion of the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry at Williamsport.

Centre Hall was largely represented at the horse show at Pennsylvania State College, and the general expression is that the horse show will serve a good purpose. Generally speaking the ribbons were placed on the favorite horses and teams.

While the Lewisburg freight train was being made up in the Bellefonte yard the other morning George Smith, of Sunbury, flagman of the crew, was thrown from the caboose. He fell upon the pilot of the engine and received quite a severe cut on the head.

Mrs. Mary Snyder, of near Centre Hall, is contemplating going to Freeport, Illinois, where she will make her home for the winter with her son, James I. Snyder. Although the time set for going west has not been definitely fixed, it is altogether likely that she will go within the next week.

The November Review of Reviews is full of timely information relative to the crisis in Turkey and the Balkans. Besides the illuminating editorial paragraphs in "The Progress of the World," there is an excellent summary of "Who's Who and What's What" in the Balkans, by E. Alexander Powell, late of the American Consular Service and Balkan correspondent of London Evening Standard.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Van Pelt, of Ithaca, New York, arrived in Centre Hall Thursday evening of last week, after having remained away from their former home for three years. The thirteen years' residence in New York have not brought many changes in them, and each visit here is enjoyed more than the previous one. Mr. and Mrs. Van Pelt returned home Monday, in time to permit the former to cast a ballot for Hughes.

In the interest of the Underwriters Association J. Paul Dinges, of Williamsport, spent the greater part of last week in Centre Hall making a survey of the properties. He made observations both on the exterior and interior of the business places, shops, dwellings barns and stables, and after his report is gone over, a new fire insurance rate—higher or lower—will prevail. Mr. Dinges was accompanied by his wife, who made her second trip here.

Right royally did Miss Jennie Thomas, assisted by her sister, Miss Ruth, entertain a company of young ladies Friday night. When they had all assembled the "ghosts" numbered eighteen. Several hallow'en pranks were indulged in, while each lady had her future foretold by the palmist. The Thomas home had been appropriately decorated with autumn leaves and fruit, and the table showed a goodly supply of witches, as well as plenty of delicacies. The guests departed at a late hour, assuring the hosts of their enjoyment of the evening.

Hershberger-McFarland.

The home of Rev. Dr. J. H. Mathers and wife, at Millin, was the scene of a quiet wedding at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, October 27th. Dr. Mathers spoke the impressive words that made Miss Jennie McFarland, of Bellefonte, the bride of James E. Hershberger, of Altoona. After the ceremony and congratulations an elegant dinner was served. On train No. 1 the newly wedded couple came to Altoona, where their newly furnished home, 1908 Fifth avenue, awaits them.

The groom is the proprietor of a milk depot and route and is an estimable young gentleman. The bride is one of Bellefonte's popular young ladies. She has been for some time the efficient clerk in Fuoss's bakery and a prominent worker in the Presbyterian Christian Endeavor society. The congratulations of a host of friends freight the matrimonial bark.

The above is from an Altoona paper. The groom is a son of H. K. Hershberger, of Potters Mills, and for several years was in Philadelphia. Later he located in Altoona, where he began business for himself. The Reporter congratulates him, and wishes the young couple a long, happy life.

Splendid Prizes for Corn.

Those who have good corn should not fail to select ten ears to show at the Third Annual Corn Show to be held by the Pennsylvania Live Stock Breeders' Association at Harrisburg, January 26-29 next. Eight silver cups, ranging from \$25 to \$50, will be offered in the various classes and 45 cash prizes in addition. A \$50 cup is offered for the best show of 100 ears made by any subordinate Grange in the state. Exhibits of dairy products for which liberal prizes are offered will be a feature, and the Penn'a Experiment Station and the State Live Stock Sanitary Board will also make exhibits worth seeing. For corn entry blanks, prize lists, etc., address Secretary E. B. Bayard, East End, Pittsburg, Pa. There are no entrance fees.

Death of James Kerr.

Ex-Congressman James Kerr, the Democratic National Committeeman from Pennsylvania, died at his summer home in New Rochelle, N. Y., Friday afternoon. He had been suffering from internal troubles, and underwent an operation, from which he never rallied. Interment was made in Clearfield Monday.

In the death of James Kerr Pennsylvania loses one of her foremost citizens. Identified as he was with much of the development of the Clearfield region of bituminous business, he has long been recognized as a leading soft coal operator, and one whom his men held in the highest regard. The news of his death will be universally regretted, but nowhere more keenly than throughout this section where he was intimately known by thousands. Politically Mr. Kerr was one of the leading Democrats of the nation, and his services in the party had long since ranked him in the very forefront, even to having been selected by many as the candidate for Governor at the next election. Mr. Kerr was a finished gentleman, a scholar and a public speaker of force and eloquence.

Blair County Hospital.

Dr. Thomas F. Neil, of Philadelphia, who has been superintendent of Blair County Hospital for the insane for the past two years, was dismissed from office last week by the poor authorities. Dr. Neil asserts that his dismissal is a punishment for his refusal to permit the authorities to practice petty graft in the hospital affairs.

Charges of the most startling character are made. It is asserted that women were imported from Altoona and employed under assumed names in the hospital.

At a meeting of the physicians of Hollidaysburg held Thursday evening of last week, a call was made for an investigation of alleged hospital mismanagement by the State Board of Public Charities.

Unlicensed Hunters Fined.

Over fifty foreigners were arrested last week by agents of the state game commission for hunting without a license, as required by the act of the assembly, which demands that unnaturalized persons take out official papers to shoot. In almost every instance the men were fined \$25.

Persons coming into Pennsylvania from other states must also procure a license to hunt, whether they are naturalized citizens or not.

A serial story that promises remarkably well begins in the November number of The Ladies' World. It is called Hearts Insurgent, and the author is Grace MacGowan Cooke, whose name alone guarantees excellence.

It is a poor political skate whose prediction didn't come true.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

There will be a regular meeting of Progress Grange Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Daniel Heckman, of Bellefonte, last week went to Wilkinsburg to visit her daughter, Mrs. C. G. Spicher.

The town's supply of water has been holding out remarkably well. There is an abundance for all purposes at present.

Postmaster G. M. Bosal reports a letter addressed to Miss Annie Rhyme as remaining unclaimed in the Centre Hall postoffice.

Harry Musser is breaking ground for a new store room at Struble where he has been doing such a big business that his old quarters became much crowded.

Howard Ripka, who for a year lived on the McCoy farm at Potters Mills, next spring will move to Millin county where he has rented a very productive farm somewhere in the vicinity of Milroy.

The citizens of Smithtown, have organized a water company and are laying pipes from the spring on the farm of Charles Frankenberger, north of that place, to their respective residences.

B. H. Arney recently made a trip to Niagara Falls to visit his son, A. Miles Arney. While in that city he heard a number of political stumpers of national reputation, among them being John Sharp Williams and Dooliver.

Mrs. Amos Alexander, of Milroy, has been assisting in taking care of Mrs. Sarah Tremier, of near Centre Hill, who, it will be remembered had her arm broken by being run over by a cow. Her condition is improving somewhat.

But one and forty-hundredths of an inch of rain fell during the month of October. The whole amount of water that fell during the month would be termed but one "good" rain, and frequently as much falls in the space of two hours and less.

Rev. and Mrs. W. A. McClellan, of Pleasant Unity, have finished their visit in Penns Valley, and from here they went to Philadelphia. Before returning to their home, Mrs. McClellan will spend some time with her brother, Rev. James Runkle, at Newport, Perry county.

Aaron Detwiler, of near Tusseyville, will vacate the Wagner farm in the spring and will move onto the George Gentzel farm, near the Cross Church, in Georges Valley. The farm is now occupied by Mr. Shawver, who will move to near Woodward on the Michael Hess farm.

Mrs. Lizzie McDowell, of Aaronsburg, went to the fields north of that town in search of chestnuts, and stepping on a piece of wood, which either broke or rolled from beneath her, was thrown to the ground, breaking her right arm at the wrist. Dr. C. S. Musser was called and reduced the fracture.

There is danger in house cleaning. At Centre Hall Mrs. A. P. Krape ran a needle into the palm of her hand while mopping up the floor, and at Millheim Mrs. J. M. Road fell from a step ladder, which she mounted to clean a ceiling, and broke her arm at the wrist, besides receiving other injuries.

The long connection of Col. D. F. Fortney with the public schools in Bellefonte has made him popular with the educators in Centre and adjoining counties. Last week he was in Clearfield county where he appeared before the directors at a county meeting and twice addressed them. Col. Fortney is well posted on the school laws in Pennsylvania, and in educational matters believes in teaching the most practical things.

Frederick Catherman, of Millheim, received an apple of the Ben Davis variety from the state of Washington that weighed one and one-half pounds. It was sent to him by his friend, A. S. Ruhl, of Rockford, Ill., who is now on the Pacific coast. It is the finest and largest apple ever seen here and is entirely different from the Ben Davis apple in Penns Valley. Mr. Ruhl also sent a number of oak leaves that are fourteen inches wide to show how vegetation grows in that state.

Royal Betts, a contractor of Johnstown, was a caller at this office one day last week. He was on his return from New York City and stopped off at Lewistown to pay a visit to Mrs. Betts' cousin, Mrs. J. W. Brown, of Milroy, and accompanied by Mrs. Brown and her little son came to Centre Hall to visit his aunt, Mrs. W. A. Kries. During his stay in New York he purchased several building lots from a Pittsburg Syndicate that had bought a sixty-acre farm within the limits of the city, and laid it off into over nine hundred lots. Mr. Betts states that a number of Johnstown people have made similar investments.