



The Tax Rate.

Nothing touches the individual so much as tax-paying. He is always looking for a low tax rate, no matter whether it would be real economy to pay a high rate or not—the individual wants a low tax rate, a small tax. It was a matter of economy for the Democratic board of county commissioners to increase the tax rate in Centre county from three to five mills, because had this increase not been made Centre county would be obliged to have paid interest on an indebtedness caused by the extravagance of a Republican board of county commissioners.

By raising the tax rate the Democratic board was enabled not only to conduct the business of the county, but pay the Republican debt inherited and leave a neat surplus in the treasury, which the auditors' statement now being prepared will doubtless show.

Under present conditions—all debts paid and a surplus on hand—the present board of commissioners can, if it wishes, easily reduce the millage again to three mills, and by practicing strict economy should come out even at the close of three years. By doing this on a three mill tax levied would be no better financing than was done by the board whom they succeeded.

Grange Fire Insurance Co. Reorganizes.

The Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Patrons of Husbandry, commonly called the Grange company, was reorganized at the annual meeting held last week in Bellefonte. There were two changes in the officers—Hon. John T. McCormick, of State College, retiring as vice president, and James A. Keller, of Centre Hall, as secretary. The board at present is constituted as follows: President, I. S. Frain, Marion township; Vice President, George Ebbs, Half Moon township; Secretary, David K. Keller, Potter township; Treasurer, George L. Goodhart, Centre Hall.

The business of the company was very flattering. The changes made on the board were not on account of any disruption.

Service at Spring Mills.

The Christmas service rendered by the Reformed Sunday School at Spring Mills was well attended. Two very interesting numbers on the program were a cantata, "In search of the King," by Misses Gertrude Musser, Jennie Huss and Laura Siegal. Two beautiful songs were sung by these young ladies, "Heaven's guiding ray," and "O, Holy night." There was also a dialogue, "Gleaming candles," by Class No. 3. Collection was lifted by Misses Maud Auman, Laura Siegal, Ruth and Gertrude Musser, while the organist, Miss Rishel, was playing "Meditation." Dr. Wolf made an excellent address, after which the gifts were distributed to the children. *

Keith's Theatre.

Zelle de Lussan, prima donna, formerly of the Metropolitan Grand Opera Company, is the headliner at Keith's Theatre, Philadelphia, this week. The Fadettes are giving their second and last week of orchestral music at this popular playhouse. An European novelty is Hugh Lloyd, the bounding rope wonder. One of his feats consists in turning a somersault on a taut rope while playing a violin. "A Night With the Poets" is an artistic, musical and spectacular creation by George Homan. Kaufman Brothers, in Burlesque Grand Opera; The Comrades, comedy acrobats; Carson and Willard, giving "The Dutch in Egypt"; Cooper and Robinson, the best colored duo in vaudeville, are other numbers of interest.

Odd Fellows Honor Chief.

C. W. Myers, of Harrisburg, grand master of the Pennsylvania Odd Fellows has been presented with a handsome gavel and case by Odd Fellows in the Eighth Allegheny District. The gavel is composed of 200 pieces of seventeen different kinds of wood from as many different parts of the world, and is the handiwork of District Deputy Daniel E. Spangler, of Hays.

It is not a great long time until the caucuses will be held to nominate candidates for the spring election. It is of vast importance to every property holder that all local offices are held by capable, honest and progressive men, and in order that this class of officers may be elected, it is necessary to place such men in nomination. It is not too early to look over the field, and count the available timber.

Horse, Buggy, Etc. for Sale.

W. Gross Mingle offers at private sale the following: Driving mare, top buggy, open Concord wagon, two sets harness, spring wagon, blankets, etc.

J. Samuel Rowe is off to Buffalo, New York, on a week's business trip.

Grange Legislative Committee.

Past Master Leonard Rhone, of Centre county; Past Master W. F. Hill, of Huntingdon county; Rev. H. G. Leagarden, of Punxsutawney; John A. McSparran, of Lancaster county; A. M. Cornell, of Bradford county, and Thomas Sharpless, of Chester county, constitute the State Grange legislative committee, which committee held a meeting in Harrisburg last week. This committee will prepare a bill to be introduced in the state legislature asking that the state pay the salaries of public school teachers, and will also prepare a statement showing that rural communities should be relieved of this portion of the expense occasioned by the public school system.

Will Begin Butchering.

Under the proper head is announced the public sale of farm stock and implements to be held by Clair G. Stamm, of near Colyer, on January 20th, and shortly thereafter he will succeed William Meyer, at Spring Mills, as butcher, having purchased his equipment and business. The Reporter wishes him success in his new undertaking.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Banquet.

The local order of Independent Odd Fellows and Rebekahs will hold their annual banquet Friday evening, January 15th, in Grange Arcadia.

LOCALS

And what if a fire should occur in Centre Hall? Are we prepared for it? Mr. and Mrs. James B. Neff have moved from their ranch to Antonito, Colorado.

John G. King, of Centre Hall, has been seriously ill during the past two weeks or more.

Robert Glasgow will succeed Clair G. Stamm as tenant on the 'Squire Houseman farm, near Colyer.

Rev. J. S. Shultz is now located in Pine Grove Mills and since the beginning of the year is the pastor of the Lutheran church at that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Durst, of near Centre Hall, the latter part of last week, drove to Millin county to visit Mr. and Mrs. James Durst and family.

Joseph Bailor, of Reedsville, is nursing a broken arm, having received the fracture by being thrown from a horse. He is the husband of May Kreitzer, formerly of Centre Hall.

B. D. Brieblin & Company have set up and put into operation a new saw mill on the Bartges lumber tract, east of Old Fort. The mill was purchased from A. E. Farquhar, the York manufacturer.

Fred, the seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Sluterbeck, of near Tusseyville, has been a sufferer from inflammatory rheumatism for the past five or more weeks. At present he is somewhat improved.

It is a pleasure to note that the new subscribers to the Centre Reporter continue to come in with a rush. Subscriptions are being paid with such promptness that there will be little left for the "statement" man to do.

J. Herbert Ward, who for a number of years has been station agent, baggage master, express agent and general factotum at the Pine Grove Mills station on the Bellefonte Central railroad, has resigned his position and sold out what other interests he had in Pine Grove Mills and moved to Trevorton, Northumberland county, where he will keep a general supply store.

The abuse of a horse by a young man in Centre Hall has been attracting considerable attention. Apparently the animal is not only unmercifully beaten, but is also under-fed. Abuse of dumb animals should not be tolerated, and those under whose observation the offense falls should promptly order the arrest of the heartless man. Constables who observe cruelty of this sort may arrest without warrant.

During the year 1908 Register and Recorder H. C. Burkett, of Millin county, issued two hundred marriage licenses. In the preceding year, 1907, two hundred and seventy-seven marriage licenses were granted by the same county official. Thus it will be seen that Centre county is not the only county in which the females failed to increase marriages by being given privileges in the one year in four.

Messrs. J. B. Heberling and J. Paul Rearick will enter into copartnership and open a furniture store at State College and in connection with it will conduct an undertaking establishment.

Mr. Rearick and Mr. Shealy, it has been learned, have dissolved the copartnership under which a similar business was conducted during the past year. Mr. Shealy and Roy Gentzel, under the firm name of Shealy & Gentzel, will open a furniture store, but will not engage in undertaking.

From Millheim Journal.

Isaiah Fiedler, of Franklinville, N. Y., spent some time recently with his brother, H. N. Fiedler, at Madisonburg.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Spigelmyer spent several days during the past week with their daughter, Mrs. Charles Bassler, at Freeburg.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Adam Bowersox, of Senor, Pa., were guests of friends and former acquaintances in this section during the week.

Mrs. Emma C. Miller and daughter, of Williamsport, spent several days last week with relatives and friends in this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Koch, of Sunbury, spent several days last week at the home of Mrs. Koch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Meyer.

Gurney Boob, in company with Charles Corman, of Smulinton, spent the holiday week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Cole, at Newport.

F. E. Stover and wife, who were visiting their daughter, Mrs. C. F. Garrett, left for their home at Hanover, Pa., on Monday, and were accompanied by their granddaughter, Miss Mary Garrett.

Primaries Saturday, January 23.

The primaries for the nomination of candidates for local offices will be held in the boroughs and townships in Centre county, Saturday, 23rd instant.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

John L. Holmes represented the interests of State College at a meeting of the railway commission at Harrisburg.

Miss Edith Royer, of Centre Hill, is at Flat Rock, Ohio, where she is making her home for the present with a brother.

Asher Stahl killed a gray fox and a raccoon, while on a short hunting trip on Nittany Mountain, the latter part of last week.

James R. Hughes, principal of the Bellefonte Academy since 1900, has resigned. He will remain until the commencement in June.

The Millinburg News, in its Volume 1, No. 34, stated that after Monday W. H. Willis, of Philadelphia, would have charge of the paper.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Bloom, of Sioux City, Ia., who have been visiting the former's mother, Mrs. W. E. Comfort, at State College, for the past two months, left for Washington.

If you have printing to do, bring it to the Reporter office. The work you will have done here will please you. Prices are down to the bottom considering the grade of work and material used.

After March 1st, free delivery will be established at State College. This will greatly add to the mail conveniences of that borough. There will be two general deliveries, and one special in the business section.

Mrs. Mary Quinn, one of the oldest women of Bellefonte, died at her home there, aged eighty-four years. She had been an invalid for a number of years. She was the widow of the late James Quinn, and was a resident of Bellefonte for many years.

Potters Mills.

Mrs. Thomas Henney, of Latrobe, visited her mother, Mrs. Anna Hartman, a few days last week.

Harry Wilkinson and Earl Smith spent Saturday with friends at Spring Mills.

Pat Garry had a hard fall on the ice a few weeks ago and hurt his ankle. However, he is able to be about again.

Mrs. Mary Long, who had her leg broken some time ago, is getting along very nicely, considering her age.

There is quite a lot of sickness in the community, which keeps the doctor busy.

Albert Zimmerman wishes to return hearty thanks to a number of his scholars who presented him with a lovely water set.

Baby Margaret Burns, who is ill at the home of Reuben Colyer, has been very sick, but at this writing is much better.

Michael Smith and wife, of this place, and William Smith and wife, of Spring Mills, are visiting their brother, Luther Smith, at Johnstown.

William Auman is becoming quite feeble. He makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Blausner. His son, Phillip, of Johnstown, was to see him last week.

John Strong's sale Saturday was largely attended. Monday he and Mrs. Strong left for Boston, Mass., where they will engage in the restaurant business.

Albert Zimmerman, teacher of the grammar school, on his return from teachers' institute brought with him his wife, who will remain here for a week. Saturday evening the scholars all turned out and serenaded them. Mr. Zimmerman treated them, after which they wished him a prosperous and happy life, and all went home rejoicing.

DEATHS.

ALEXANDER SHANNON.

In the last issue of the Centre Reporter a brief statement of the death of Alexander Shannon, which occurred in Smith Centre, Kansas, December 26, was printed. The following is clipped from the Smith County Pioneer, published in Smith Centre:

The funeral cortege which followed the remains to the burial grounds, was one of the largest ever witnessed in the city. It was headed by three Masonic bodies, in the van of which marched the Knights Templars in uniform, their white plumes waving in the soft breeze, followed by the Royal Arch and Blue Lodge Masons.

Four children survive him, all being present except Orris W., who is in California and could not be present. Those who were here were John and Sadie, of Smith Centre, and Mrs. T. S. Terry, of Downs. Other surviving near relatives is a brother, Rev. S. G. Shannon, of Philadelphia, Pa., a clergyman in the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mrs. Shannon died three years ago.

The following brief sketch of his life was written by Mr. Shannon, in 1899: "I, Alexander Shannon, born May 23, 1834, in Potter township, Centre county, Pennsylvania, was raised on a farm, receiving very limited common school education. On the first day of April, 1852, engaged with John Poorman, of Millheim, Pa., as an apprentice to learn the trade of cabinet making at the princely salary of \$15 per year, served two years after which worked principally at the carpenter trade.

March 20th, 1856, was married to Isabella Royer by Rev. Robert Hamill in the hotel parlor in Boalsburg, Centre county, Pennsylvania. Continued to work at cabinet making and carpentering until 1868 when elected a justice of the peace in and for Centre county, Pennsylvania, also secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company of Centre county, Pennsylvania, in which capacity served until April 1873, when both offices were resigned, having decided to remove from the state and settle in the west. During the month of May (same year) moved from Pennsylvania, settling in Lena, Ill., where the manufacturing of buggies was engaged in until the fall of 1881 when that business was abandoned and that of life insurance taken up for the Northwestern Masonic Aid Association of Chicago, Ill., as a general agent, covering a number of states, up to 1894 when that position was resigned to take position with the United States Masonic Benevolent Association of Council Bluffs, Iowa, as special agent. Served as such until May, 1895, when elected one of the directors and adjusting agent of the company; two years later was elected their treasurer and second vice president, am holding the above four positions at this writing, August 29, 1899.

March, 1885, bought a quarter section (160 acres) of land near Smith Centre, Smith county, Kans., to which we, the family, moved in March, 1886, with but little of this world's goods, but a determination to (in this new country) carve out for us a home. As to our success up to the present, the casual observer can judge.

"Religion, Evangelical Lutheran. Fraternal, Masonic. Was made a Master Mason in Bellefonte Lodge No. 265 F. & A. M. December, 1868. Was made a Royal Arch Mason in Bellefonte Chapter of Royal Arch Masons No. 141 in Bellefonte, Pa., September, 1872. Was created and dubbed a Knight Templar in Constance Commandery No. 33 in Bellefonte, Pa., in the year 1872. April, 1875, the grades of the Scottish Rite from the 4th to the 32nd inclusive was conferred upon me in Freeport Consistory, S. P. S. S., in Freeport, Ill. Have filled by election as well as by appointment many important stations in the several bodies of Masonry."

Mr. Shannon will be kindly remembered by many of the readers of the Reporter although not a resident of Centre Hall for the past thirty-four years.

He had been a sufferer from kidney trouble during the past three years, and both he and his family were aware that the end of his life was near at hand.

Within the past six weeks death has almost wiped out the elder generation of the Muffley families, one so well known in Centre county. In November Sydney T. Muffley died at his home in Philadelphia, and in December his brother, Joseph T. Muffley, died in the same city, and last week news was received of the death of Capt. Joseph Wendell Muffley, of Des Moines, Iowa, at the government sanitarium at Hot Springs, Neb., where he had been undergoing treatment the past month for Bright's disease.

Born in Clinton county, July 11th, 1840, Captain Muffley came to Howard, this county, with his parents shortly

after his birth. At the breaking out of the Civil War he was among the first to enlist from this section, going as a private in Company B, 148th regiment, in command of Col. James A. Beaver. His regiment participated in most of the hard battles of the Virginia campaign, and at Gettysburg he was wounded by a spent shell. During the leave of absence then granted to him he was married to Miss Mary Baker, of Howard. At the close of the war he with his wife and child went to Des Moines, Iowa. Several years ago Captain Muffley wrote the history of the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers, which is now accepted as an authority on the campaigns of that regiment.

R. AUSTIN KRAPE.

The death of R. Austin Krape occurred in a state institution at Harrisburg, to which place he was taken about three years ago after a prolonged illness. His age was about thirty-eight years.

Interment will be made at Centre Hall this (Thursday) morning, ten o'clock, the body having been shipped to arrive on the train from the east. Services will be held in the Reformed church, Rev. Daniel Gress and Dr. D. M. Wolf to officiate.

Deceased was the son of James Krape, formerly of Ferguson township, and is survived by a sister, Mrs. G. Calvin King, of Spring Mills, and three brothers, George, John and Best. Also a widow, nee Mattie Geary, and a daughter, Edna, aged about twelve years.

The death of Samuel A. Bell, occurred very suddenly at his home in Bellefonte, Thursday of last week. Apparently in good health, he had been engaged in building a family vault in the Stewart lot in the Union cemetery. While on the way to the cemetery he became suddenly ill and died about three o'clock from heart disease. Mr. Bell was born in Aaronburg, his age being almost seventy-four years. About 1868 he was married to Miss Priscilla W. Hall, who survives as do the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Webb, of Texas; Charles, of Huntingdon; C. C., of Altoona, and Mrs. Hull, of Aaronburg.

JONATHAN DINGES.

Jonathan Dinges died at his home in Penn township, of diseases incident to old age, he having attained the age of eighty-three years, one month and eight days. He leaves to survive a widow, four sons and three daughters: Alfred, of Freeport, Ill.; Milford, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Cloyd, of Coburn; Frank, at home; Mrs. Alice Cain, of Bellefonte; Mrs. J. L. Whitmyer, of Akron, Ohio, and Mrs. C. H. Breen, of Millheim. Interment in the Union cemetery at Millheim.

PETER A. CONFER.

Peter A. Confer, an aged and respected citizen of Millheim, died at his home Monday morning of last week of cancer, aged eighty-one years, two months, twenty-five days. He leaves to survive a widow and the following children: Mrs. Lavina Nearhood, of Aurora, Ill.; P. F. Confer and John Confer, of Millheim; Emanuel Confer, of Penn township, and Edward Confer, of Chicago.

Mrs. Ellen Mattern, wife of Jacob D. Mattern, and one of the best known women in Buffalo Run Valley, died after a year's illness from heart trouble and a complication of diseases. She was a daughter of John and Mary Wasson, and was born at Centre Furnace, her age being seventy-four years, eight months. Her husband and one adopted son, Albert Mattern, of Scotia, survive. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and Rev. W. K. Harnish officiated at the funeral.

Mrs. Cornelius Kane died at her home in Howard after a lingering illness from stomach trouble. She was aged about seventy-six years, and is survived by the following children: Mary, of Bryn Mawr; Mrs. Margaret Caskey, of Renovo; Ellen, of Pittsburgh; Minnie, of Spring Lake, N. J.; John, of Ridgway; James, of Zion, and Annie, at home.

Mrs. Emily C. Robeson died at her home in Altoona, after being in failing health the past five years. Her maiden name was Moore, and she was born in Centre county seventy-nine years ago. Most of the time since her marriage to Mr. Robeson fifty-one years ago she lived in Altoona. Her husband and two children survive.

William Bryan, a former resident of Curtin, this county, died at his home at Burnham, after six months' illness from cancer. He was sixty-four years old and is survived by a wife and family of children.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Ellis Shaffer, manager of the Ward House, Tyrone, was at Madisonburg last week.

Joseph Myers has sold his house in Millheim to John D. Keen. Consideration \$600.

During the year 1908 only 294 marriage licenses were granted in Centre county against a former yearly average of 340.

Monday morning John D. Meyer began his duties as treasurer of the Blair County Title and Trust Company, in Altoona.

License was granted the Brant house, Bellefonte, James Noonan, proprietor. The license had been held up by the court for a short time.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Jennie Harris, of Bellefonte, and John Van Pelt, of Barnesboro, the wedding to take place in February.

Thursday night was the coldest during this winter, the thermometer having registered five degrees above zero. The lowest mark previous to that date was nine degrees.

Andrew G. Rote, of Farmers Mills, tenant on the McClintic farm owned by I. J. Zabler, was a caller Friday. Mr. Rote will remain on the farm he now tills, being contented with his lot.

Frank Shutt was disabled from blacksmithing for the past ten days owing to an injury received while shoeing a horse. The animal threw the blacksmith, and in falling his shoulder was injured.

F. F. Wetzel has sold his milk route in Millheim to Charles F. Stover. Mr. Wetzel has been delivering milk in that place for the past twenty-two years and on account of ill health was obliged to quit the business.

The Reporter has an abridged report of the address of Col. S. L. Stiver, of Bunker Hill, Illinois, delivered before the Pennsylvania Society, in St. Louis, Missouri, and will print the same in its columns in the near future.

The well-known implement agent, F. T. Baker, is now register and recorder of Union county, and consequently will no longer make his usual trips through Centre county, but will be found at the Union county court house.

From present indications horses will be as high priced next spring as ever. The conditions are surely in the seller's favor. Cows and young cattle, especially the former, are up in price, and no doubt will be worth even more money in March than at present.

Mayor Stephens, of Lock Haven, is after one of the fire companies in Lock Haven, and recently fined a bunch of them for drinking beer on a Sunday afternoon in the fire company's quarters. The offenders are opposing the payment of the fines and as a consequence things in Lock Haven are generally mixed up.

The term of imprisonment in the Western Penitentiary imposed on Jacob From, of Centre Hall, expired last week, but he was unable to return home on account of sickness. He has been confined in the prison hospital for some weeks owing to a severe attack of typhoid fever. As soon as he recovers sufficiently he will be set free.

It appears I. J. Zabler will move from his farm, west of Spring Mills, to the property purchased by him from Mr. Wise, at Spring Mills, during April, and that Cleveland Engard, Mr. Zabler's son-in-law, will after that time conduct the farm. There will be no public sale of stock and implements, Mr. Engard having arranged to take over the stock.

William Groh Hoffer, for a number of years editor and proprietor of the Willsboro Herald, in Willsboro, Ohio, sold his newspaper, printing plant and real estate in that town to E. G. Spade. Mr. Hoffer will locate in Wapakoneta, Ohio, where he will assume the duties of editor of the Daily News and Anglaise County Democrat. He is a native of Potter township, and his associates in youth who remain here will wish him well in his new position.

It is a great loss to the farmers of Centre county that they did not attend the farmer's institute held at State College recently. They should have been there by the hundreds instead of possibly a dozen. The instructors were the best to be had, and any one lecture would have repaid any farmer for the time he lost on account of being away from home. By all means, farmers of Centre county, attend the lectures at Pennsylvania State College next year. Of course, the farm needs your attention every day in the year, but there is also need that you receive instruction on many subjects not now fully understood by the great majority of the farmers in Centre and other counties in the state.