



## THE NEW SCHOOL CODE.

A Brief Summary of the Code Prepared for the Reporter by James B. Strohm

The following is a brief summary of the new school code as it applies to townships and boroughs, having been carefully prepared by James B. Strohm:

Five directors shall constitute a board and shall serve for five years, one being elected annually; their terms of office beginning on the first Monday of April following their election; at which time the board shall organize by electing from their number a president and a vice president; and shall also elect a secretary who may be a member of the board, and a treasurer who shall not be a member of the board. The fiscal year shall begin on the first Monday of July, at which time the secretary and the treasurer shall enter upon their duties, after giving bonds for the faithful performance of the same.

All real estate, personal property and occupations are made taxable for school purposes, and each male resident shall pay in addition, an occupation tax of at least one dollar. No discounts or abatements shall be allowed on the payment of school taxes, and collectors of the same shall fully account for and pay over to the treasurer the total amount on or before the first day of March following the year in which he was elected. The maximum rate for schools shall not exceed 25 mills on the dollar.

All new school buildings shall be built in accordance with plans and specifications furnished by the State Board of Education.

Text-books shall not be changed oftener than once in five years, and then only upon the recommendation of a majority of the teachers who use them. Directors may however disregard the wishes of teachers and adopt or change books by the affirmative votes of three-fourths of the board. All text-books used shall be selected from the approved lists of publications made by the State Board of Education; said lists shall include, in each subject, not less than three different books published by separate publishers. The purchase of books, supplies, furniture, etc., where the amount exceeds \$100, shall be by competitive bids.

Agents for books and supplies will not be allowed to be present during a vote for adoption of books or supplies.

The State Board of Education shall consist of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and six persons, appointed by the Governor, of whom three shall be successful educators of high standing, who shall serve without compensation, other than the payment of their necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Among their duties are to prescribe rules and regulations for the examination of teachers; to prepare approved lists of text-books and supplies; and to prescribe regulations for proper sanitation of school buildings.

Teachers, who are related to any member of the board may not be employed, unless such teacher receives the affirmative votes of three-fourths of all the members of the board. Persons under eighteen years of age shall not be employed. Any teacher who refuses to teach through the term for which he was engaged, unless prevented by illness, shall be disqualified from teaching elsewhere in the state, during the term of the contract. No teacher shall teach more than five school terms on provisional certificates, the presumption being that after five years' experience they should have made sufficient advancement to entitle them to professional certificates.

The appointment of a medical inspector is provided for, who shall each year inspect, test and examine all pupils in his district, giving special attention to defective sight and hearing, and shall give careful directions concerning care and treatment of pupils who have need of it. No person having tuberculosis of the lungs shall be a pupil, teacher, or other employee in any public school. Children having any contagious diseases, or residing in any house where they exist, shall be excluded from school. The provisions of the former vaccination law are somewhat modified. It becomes the duty of directors and the medical inspector to dismiss from school unvaccinated pupils, but the medical inspector may permit such unvaccinated pupils to attend school where no cases of smallpox or varioloid are known to exist.

The minimum school term shall be eight months and the maximum ten months.

Besides the ordinary course of study, and a system of humane education, which shall include kind treatment of birds and other animals, elementary agriculture is prescribed. Vivisection or other cruel experiment on any living creature is prohibited.

Directors are empowered to establish, contribute to, and administer a teachers' retirement fund, and may

(Continued on next column.)

## THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Bills Introduced to Check the Taking of Usury—The Vest Pocket Ballot Provided for—Bills Passed by One of the Two Bodies.

The House and Senate were down to work and bills covering every evil were introduced. Among the measures that were under consideration and are of local interest are noted below:

## A BLOW AT USURY.

In line with the crusade waged by Director of Public Safety Clay against unscrupulous money lenders was a bill introduced by Senator Clarence Wolf, of Philadelphia, which makes the charging of usurious interest a misdemeanor. A fine of \$500 and imprisonment of one year is the penalty imposed for violations. The maximum rate of interest to be charged is fixed at six per cent., but the bill permits the person making the loan to collect from the borrower an initial payment of two per cent. of the loan. This is to cover expenses and shall not depend on the length of time for which the loan is negotiated.

It is provided in the bill that where any money is paid by a borrower, personally or through a second or third party, the money so paid shall be considered as interest. Should such payment or payments exceed the amount of the loan, with six per cent. interest, the persons accepting the same shall be held guilty of collecting a usurious interest.

## VEST POCKET BALLOTS.

A bill suggested by John H. Fow, of Philadelphia, was offered by Mr. Cressy, restoring the "vest pocket" system for voting. It is provided that one-half of the official ballots shall be given out on the Friday preceding elections. These shall be voted the same as the other ballots, in an official envelope, which the judge of election must furnish the vest pocket voter on election day. Mr. Cressy said that his system did not differ in any way from the present method, except that it provided for the distribution of the official ballots. Inasmuch as no election laws will be changed, but all revision along these lines will be referred to a commission to be appointed to revise the election laws and report to the next session of the legislature, this bill will not be considered by the leaders.

Mr. McNichol in the Senate presented a bill permitting juries in rendering verdicts of first degree murder to state whether the defendant shall be hanged or serve a life sentence.

## BILLS PASSED.

The following bills passed finally in the Senate:

Prohibiting the sale of eggs unfit for food.

Regulating the sale of cold storage poultry, game and eggs.

Prohibiting the adulteration of lard.

These three bills were prepared by the Dairy and Food Division of the State Department of Agriculture.

Amending the State Constitution so as to abolish spring elections.

The new medical bill provides that physicians who are found guilty of performing criminal operations, using intoxicants to excess, may have their license suspended.

## Capture Bear Alive.

One afternoon about a week ago while George Lovett, who is crippled, and Harry Watkins, who is minus his right arm, were in the woods in Gallagher township, Clinton county, they had a lively encounter with a bear. Bruin was first seen in a hole and upon coming out they tried to subdue the animal. Neither man had any weapon, but Watkins knocked bruin senseless with a large pine knot. The men then bound the bear's legs together with their suspenders and handkerchiefs and threw a canvas coat over the animal. Watkins then started for a chain, but while he was gone the bear revived, and tearing its fastenings came at Mr. Lovett. The latter was fast becoming exhausted by the tussle when his companion returned with the chain. Bruin was with difficulty lassoed about the neck and dragged down the hill. By that time he was pretty well subdued and walked meekly along to the Lovett home where he can be seen at any time. The bear is thought to be about two years old.

A special meeting of Progress Grange will be held Saturday afternoon.

(Continued from previous column.)

provide in the contracts with teachers that they shall contribute a reasonable sum from their salaries, to said fund, the management to be by those who contribute to it, and according to regulations prescribed by the State Board.

A state school fund is provided for from the net receipts derived from or on account of the forest reservations.

The religious garb provision has been expunged. No religious or political test shall be required of any employee in the public schools of this Commonwealth.

## INEQUALITIES OF TAXATION.

Pointed Out to Governor and Legislature by the Legislative Committee of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

The Legislative Committee of the Pennsylvania State Grange, which is composed of the following well-known members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry: Hon. W. T. Cressy, Hon. Leonard Rhoads, Hon. W. F. Hill, S. S. Blyholder, A. M. Cornell, John A. McSparran, Thomas Sharpless and H. G. Teagarden, prepared the following statement and addressed the same to Governor Stuart, the Senate and House of Representatives. The statement will be well worth the reading and careful studying, and is reprinted below:

We, farmers and citizens of Pennsylvania, appointed a Committee by the Pennsylvania State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, authorized to address your honorable body, herewith set forth certain discriminations and hardships imposed upon real estate, farm and home owners by the unequal and antiquated tax laws of Pennsylvania which exact from real estate, appraised for taxation at \$4,172,955,443, a tax of \$69,881,707.00 annually or an average of 16 mills on the dollar. While under authority of the same laws only \$19,824,964.00 are collected from personal and corporate property which is appraised at \$6,511,485,670, or an average tax of only 3 mills on the dollar.

In addition to the foregoing discrimination against real estate, cited, the counties are required to pay direct to the State \$9,716,700.00 (Report of Auditor General, page 2).

It may be contended by some that real estate is undervalued for taxation. So is personal and corporate property to a much larger extent as indicated by the statistical reports of the Commonwealth.

This subject was fully investigated by the Pennsylvania Tax Conference a few years ago. A complete record was made from the books of the County Commissioners of the assessed value of real estate for taxation and what lands actually sold for in the market which clearly indicated that real estate was assessed for fully seventy-five per cent. of its selling price in the several counties of the State, while personal and corporate property, according to the statistical reports of the State and taxes collected, is not assessed at more than fifty per cent. of its market value.

Take, as an example, the appraised market value of manufacturing plants in Pennsylvania which is stated at \$932,842,453.00, Report of Secretary of Internal Affairs, (Part 3, page 299), while its estimated appraised value for taxation is only \$146,835,590.00, and taxes paid \$1,007,332.00 (Report Auditor General 1907, page 207); so that if there is any undervaluation of property for taxation it applies more forcibly to personal and corporate property than it does to real estate.

When the Legislature enacted laws changing the financial policy of the State, it exempted personal and corporate property from local taxation and made it taxable wholly for the support of the department of State and then in return made real estate taxable wholly for county, city and local governments.

When this policy was inaugurated by the State, the wisest statesman did not foresee the enormous growth of the value of personal and corporate property, which now has reached the prodigious sum of over \$6,500,000,000.00.

In the race of development, personal and corporate property has out-stripped real estate by over \$2,300,000,000.00.

During the same period the taxes on real estate have increased to \$69,881,707.00, while on personal and corporate property, the taxes have fallen behind real estate more than \$50,000,000.00.

We might cite numerous cases of how the discrimination affects the home owner, but we will give only one illustration of the situation.

Take two citizens of the Commonwealth; one buys a home for \$1,000.00 and is required to pay a tax from \$20 to \$30 for the support of schools, roads, poor, etc. The other invests his \$1,000.00 in personal property, bonds and mortgages and is taxed \$4 for the support of the State and nothing for the home government, the benefit of which he enjoys equally with the other.

This unjust discrimination is authorized by the laws of Pennsylvania, a republic that counsels its people "To love mercy and do justice." We, therefore, appeal to the Executive and Legislative Departments of our State Government, to carefully investigate this complaint of the home owners and tenants of Pennsylvania.

## HOW THE TAX ACCOUNT STANDS.

The aggregate value of real estate in Pennsylvania is \$4,172,955,443.00.

The taxes paid by real estate is \$69,881,707.00.

Average rate of taxation on real estate, 16 mills.

(Continued on next column.)

Appraised value of personal and corporate property, \$6,511,485,670.00.

Taxes paid on personal and corporate property, after deducting commissions, licenses and other miscellaneous sources of income, leaves a tax on personal and corporate property of only \$19,824,964.00.

Average rate of taxation on personal and corporate property, 3 mills.

## IF TAXES WERE LEVIED EQUITABLY.

If personal and corporate property were taxed at the same average mill rate that real estate would be taxed, personal and corporate property would be required to pay \$43,696,483.00 instead of \$19,824,964.00.

Crediting to personal and corporate property commissions, licenses, and other miscellaneous sources of income, amounting to \$11,000,000.00 would make a total of \$54,696,483.00 as the share of personal property.

If taxes were collected equitably real estate would be required to pay \$35,052,825.00 instead of \$69,881,707.00 or a saving to the real estate owners annually of \$34,828,882.00.

## TAX LAWS ROB REAL ESTATE OWNERS.

The real estate owners are, annually, grossly robbed of \$34,828,882.00. Fifteen millions of this amount is directly extorted from the farmers and nineteen millions from residents in cities and towns, whether they be owners or tenants. It is this policy of the state that has driven away from the farms and rural communities, according to the last census report, over one hundred thousand people from twenty-two counties of the state.

To correct these discriminations against the farm and home owners of Pennsylvania, we respectfully insist that the State either assume a larger proportion of the cost of the local governments or give the local governments authority to tax personal and corporate property in each unit of government.

The State could, without any detriment to its own finances, remit to the counties the \$9,716,700 now collected by the state from the counties. And in all justice, the State should pay the minimum wages of public school teachers, for the minimum term, which would assist the local governments upwards of \$13,000,000.00. And could further relieve the local governments by appropriating a minimum sum per mile to the counties and townships for road purposes equal to fifty per cent. of the road taxes paid in each township; limiting the amount to \$20.00 per mile, and relieve the counties and townships of the partnership business in constructing State roads. Let the State assume with the aid of the National Government the entire construction of inter-state and inter-county roads.

If there are not sufficient revenues for the State Government, an additional tax of one mill could be placed on all personal and corporate property (without any hardship), with a small tax on the gross productions of mines, oil and gas wells, and similar enterprises.

Besides, there are numerous other sources from which revenues might be derived.

If the State treated the agricultural class with justice and equity the farmers would be contented in their vocation, and Pennsylvania would have more prosperous and happy agricultural communities which are the mainstay of the prosperity of our Commonwealth.

## LOCALS.

The truth, in a nutshell, is a good bit of a chestnut.

Landlord Shaver, of Millheim, accompanied George E. Homen to Philadelphia to which place the latter went to dispose of a car load of horses.

Modern marriage conditions form the theme of the "Shuttlecock," the complete novel published in the March Smart Set. "The Shuttlecock" is from the pen of Neith Boyce, one of the cleverest of the young novelists.

D. B. Louder, of Oak Hall Station, while doing the evening chores about the barn made a misstep and fell down the hay hole to the floor below. Since then he has been nursing a bad shoulder and arm.

John D. Meyer, treasurer of the Blair County Title and Trust Company, in Altoona, Saturday made his first visit to his parents in Centre Hall, since entering upon the duties of that position. He is very much pleased with his work, and finds the people in Altoona quite agreeable.

Frank Koch, second sergeant in Troop K. U. S. cavalry in Manila, very kindly remembered his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Koch, near Bobsburg, with valuable presents recently. To his mother he sent a shoulder shawl and an embroidered handkerchief; to his father, a fur cap and a pair of fur gloves, made of oon skin. His second term of enlistment expires next June, when he expects to turn his face homeward.

## Appointed a Midshipman.

Joseph H. Hoffman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hoffman, of Millheim, says the Journal, received notification that he had been appointed a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Maryland, for this congressional district. The appointment was made through the agency of Congressman Charles F. Barclay. Mr. Hoffman is a bright young man, and will without doubt be successful in his studies at the Academy. He will report for final examination June 16th. His friends extend congratulations upon the good fortune which is his, who is thus being given a berth which is eagerly sought by hundreds in every congressional district.

## Birthday Party.

Mrs. A. P. Krape arranged a birthday party for her husband Saturday evening of last week. The number present was not large, but a very enjoyable time was had. Those present were: Rev. Daniel Gress, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hosterman, Mr. and Mrs. William Fiedler, Mr. and Mrs. William Flory, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Mitterling, Mrs. Lucy Henney, Mrs. J. R. G. Allison, Mrs. William Goodhart, Mrs. Robert Goodhart, Mary Durst, Ruth Smith, Edna Murray, Anna Mitterling, Cora Brungart, Edward Bailey, Harry Reish, Frank Goodhart, Samuel Shoop, Charles Durst and Christ Durst.

## New Judicial District.

Congressman John M. Reynolds introduced a bill in the National House of Representatives to create a new Federal judicial district in Pennsylvania, to be composed of the counties of Millin, Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford, Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Indiana, Jefferson, Cambria, Somerset, Westmoreland and Fayette. It provides, also, for Circuit and District Courts to be held in Altoona in January and June, in Johnstown in March and September, and in Greensburg in April and November.

## Farmers' Institutes.

Three farmers' institutes will be held next week. Aaronsburg, Monday and Tuesday; Pine Grove Mills, Wednesday and Thursday; Stormstown, Friday and Saturday. The speakers will be L. W. Lighty, East Berlin; Dr. J. H. Funk, Boyertown; R. P. Kester, Grampian; Dr. Thomas F. Hunt and Prof. Alva Agee, of Pennsylvania State College; George H. McKay, Philadelphia; County Supt. D. O. Eppers, State College.

## Mrs. Horner Sold House.

Mrs. Catharine Horner sold her dwelling house in Centre Hall to Frank P. Geary, the barber, for \$1000, or thereabouts. This property was purchased by Mrs. Horner from Mrs. M. B. Richard, about two years ago, for \$550. It is a pleasant home, and will be occupied by Mr. Geary and wife, as soon as convenient for them to do so.

## Request from State.

The Legislature was asked to appropriate to Pennsylvania State College the sum of \$1,558,929.81 for the next two years, and also \$198,974.81 to cover a deficiency. Chairman Woodward, of the House Appropriations Committee, said that the total amount asked for by this college would take up one-third the estimated revenue of the state for the next two years.

## Judge Telford on License.

Temperance advocates scored a decisive victory in Indiana county, when Judge Telford refused ten licenses and only granted two, one conditionally. In addition Judge Telford laid down some new laws, including one prohibiting treating. There are eleven decisions reserved.

## Ye Park.

The Harry McRae Webster Association Players will present at Ye Park Theatre, Philadelphia, for the entire week, beginning Monday, February 22, that most successful comedy, "Mrs. Temple's Telegram." This play has never been seen in Philadelphia. It was produced at the Madison Square Theatre, New York, where it ran three months to capacity business, going from there to Power's Theatre, Chicago, where it repeated the success for 100 nights. The play is of English origin, and was produced at the Apollo Theatre, London. After a two-year engagement the production, complete, was brought to New York, and after being adapted for the American stage, the success herein mentioned was attained.

Mr. Ralph Stuart and Leah Winslow will play the leading parts, and the other members of the Harry McRae Webster Associate Players are particularly adapted to their respective roles. "The Sporting Duchess" will be the offering for the week of March 1.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

## HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Poorman, near Pleasant Gap. It was a welcomed guest.

The Presbyterian C. E. Society will give a conundrum supper in Grange Arcadia Saturday evening, 20th inst. Thursday night of last week, Mrs. H. S. Taylor, of Bellefonte, fell down a flight of stairs and since her condition is quite serious.

Miss Eva M. Johnson, of Harrisburg, is being entertained by her cousin, Miss Roxanna Brisbit, in Centre Hall.

Rev. Ralph M. Illingsworth, of Camden, N. J., has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church, at Marietta, this state, and is now in his new field.

Moses Clark, of Old Fort, made sale of a part of his personal property Saturday, and Wednesday went to Bellefonte, where he will make his home with his daughter.

Frank C. Montgomery, head of the firm of Montgomery & Company, Bellefonte clothiers, is in Philadelphia with the view of regaining his health by keeping away from business.

After a three months' vacation, which time was spent in Ohio, Rev. John A. Bright and wife are back to Campus, Kansas. The minister has taken up the pastoral work of his field with renewed energy.

Mr. Moyer, a horse buyer, shipped several horses Saturday morning to the east. He was after old horses, but found the farmers were asking too much money for their horse flesh to ship to the market he supplies.

At a meeting of Progress Grange, Saturday afternoon, ten new members were initiated. The local Grange has been growing each year, and among its members are the best citizens in Centre Hall and Potter township.

The Bell telephone company has extended its line up the Branch from Lemont with E. C. Ross, George Mitchell, James Kustaborder, John Glenn, Jessie Kilgler, Thomas Fishburn and Samuel Glenn as subscribers.

The three Berry brothers, of Millheim, rented the meat market, ice house and dwelling house of John Liggett, at Beech Creek, and after April 1 will conduct the market which is now in the hands of Jerome Hackenberg.

The members of the Christian Endeavor connected with the Presbyterian church will hold a conundrum supper in Grange Arcadia, Saturday evening, February 20th, from six to ten o'clock. Menu cards will be placed before all guests.

The Nieman block, in Millheim, is being cleaned up, the work being in charge of Ammon Snook. The store will be rebuilt, and in the meantime Mr. Nieman is having the photograph building, to the rear of the former Nieman store building, remodeled, and will open up business in it.

From the Pomona, Cal., Daily Progress of the 1st inst.: Dr. J. R. Gast, Millinburg, Penn., who is spending a month in Southern California, will be the guest of his old friend, John H. Auble, of 384 East Pearl Street, a few days this week. Dr. Gast and Mr. Auble were schoolmates in Pennsylvania fifty years ago.

James W. Swab, of Linden Hall, and Henry Swab, of Centre Hall, were called Saturday. Mr. Swab was appointed receiver in the matter of Clyde Stamm, of Potter township, and will make public sale of the farm stock, implements, household goods, etc., Tuesday 23 inst., at one o'clock. See advertisement in this issue; also, posters.

Jonathan Bierly, of Youngdale, and Mrs. Samuel Spangler, of Tylersville, arrived in Centre Hall Friday to remain for a few days. Mr. Bierly is the uncle of Byron Garis, whom he visited, and Mrs. Spangler is the mother of Mrs. John Zellers, of the Brass farm, east of Centre Hall, and of J. T. Spangler, at Tusseyville, both of whom she visited.

The Western Union Telegraph Company opened its telegraph office at State College last week in Shuey's jewelry store. The operator is Miss Helen Dreese, of Lemont. The first message taken by the operator was sent by John L. Holmes to the office of the commissioner of railway, Harrisburg. Seven messages were sent over the wires on the opening day.

The William J. Dale property, next to the Grange hall, below Pleasant Gap, was sold to William E. Crust, of Benner township. Mr. Crust, who was farming for some years on the Chambers farm, at Leavertown, will occupy his new possessions after April 1st. The price paid was \$1400. Mr. Dale, as has been mentioned heretofore in these columns, purchased a property at Pine Grove Mills, and has already moved there.