

### PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS.

The expenditures for pensions last year were upward of \$155,000,000. All the prophecies and estimates made any time during the past generation, to the effect that the pension payments would "in the course of nature" decline, appear to have been erroneous. If the new pension laws of the past four years had not been passed, the payments for the year named would have been about \$120,000,000. The new proposal in the bill passed by the Senate is to provide for a class of widows against which all previous Congresses have strictly drawn the line.

The act of 1890 provided pensions for widows, but stipulated that the marriage must have been contracted before the passage of the act. The law of 1908 excluded widows who had been married since 1890. The proposed act would let down the bars to 20,000 women, at an annual cost of several millions.

It is improper legislation. The time limit on widows was made in the first instance for the purpose of preventing known scandals and abuses. The country is eager to be both just and generous to the old soldiers, and the testimony to that effect is to be found in the laws and in the Treasury payments, but Congress should have the courage to combat the vicious notion that any young woman may enjoy a pension for life by marrying a soldier for that purpose.

### Press Must Expose Wrong.

In denying a motion to set aside the verdict of a jury in favor of the New York Times, in a libel suit brought against that newspaper Supreme Court Justice Guy made it clear that it was the duty of the press to expose all wrong doings, no matter by whom committed.

"Not only is it permissible for a newspaper to publish an expose of wrong doing," said Justice Guy, "but it is its duty to do so."

"The defendant was engaged in the publication of a newspaper not merely for the dissemination of news, but with the additional purpose of upholding a high standard of public decency and morals in the community, and it was its duty to publish truthfully so much of the facts as with decency it could publish, so that even if the machinery of the criminal law proved inadequate to reach malefactors of this class, they might be held up to public scorn and contempt."

### The Ben Greet Players.

The famous Ben Greet players will give two performances in the State College auditorium, Saturday, February 27th, afternoon and evening, under the auspices of the State College Literary club. They will play Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" at the matinee and "Macbeth" in the evening. These are two of the most popular of the productions of that well known dramatist and are presented with the staging and costuming of the poet's time. These are also two of the plays required for examination for entrance in any college and will be most helpful to students preparing for a college course. This will be a rare treat, as it is seldom that a company of this character and ability comes to this section.

The company which will be seen at State College on February 27th will include Miss Kith Wakeman, the well known player and for many years E. S. Willard's leading woman, as well as Otis Skinner's. Many know of her beautiful portrayal of "Portia" and will be glad of the opportunity of hearing her; Leonard Shepard, the well known English star, who at the head of his company in England played "Shylock," "Iago," "Macbeth" and "Hamlet," will be seen here as Shylock. In addition Frank McIntee, Stanley Drewitt, Augusta True, Helen Drewitt, Mark Wilson and others will fill their parts with the same wonderful insight into the beauty of Shakespeare as they have heretofore done under the direction of Mr. Greet himself.

### The Pink Label.

This week the Pink Label appears. Remember the labels on all papers printed this week are Pink. This color is used to call the attention of those who have paid subscription since January 6th that the label has been changed and credit given. It would be next to impossible to put the pink label only on the papers sent subscribers who paid during the specified time.

The effect of the pink label should be magic like—it should cause a broad smile when the figure indicates payment in advance, and when the figures show your subscription in arrears, it should cause such a commotion among the coins in your pocket that you will want to part with them, and if they do, send them this way.

The Pink Label this week.

### CRIMINAL LIBEL—FEDERAL COURTS.

An old and Supposedly Settled Jurisdictional Question Re-opened in Suit Against The World and The News.

By the indictment of the editors and owners of The New York World and The Indianapolis News for alleged libelous publications referring to the purchase by the United States of the French company's Panama Canal rights, an old and supposedly settled jurisdictional question has been re-opened. The indictments were found by a grand jury of the District of Columbia, the alleged libels were published in New York and Indianapolis, respectively. Many years ago an effort was made to arrest the late Charles A. Dana, editor of The New York Sun, in a suit for criminal libel instituted in a Federal district a thousand miles away from the place of its utterance. It was asserted by the prosecution that the sale and circulation of the offending newspaper in each of the hundreds of cities where it was distributed constituted a publication of the defamatory matter, and that the publisher was amenable to the Courts in any or all of these numerous jurisdictions. This claim was repudiated by the United States Supreme Court with considerable emphasis.

A person accused is not to be transported from one end of the United States to the other on the authority of a Bench warrant issued by a distant Federal Court. The assertion that the circulation of an alleged libelous publication in each place where the newspaper containing it is distributed might be regarded as a distinct offense was combated with much spirit by former Secretary Elihu Root, who was Mr. Dana's counsel. If this were permissible the editor of an extensively read newspaper might be successively dragged before the Courts of all of the forty-six States and the fifty or more judicial districts of the United States. There are some two thousand military, postal and other Government reservations in the country; and if the offending sheet could be shown to have been read in any of these reservations the editor would be indictable in each and haled before a Federal Court, mayhap at the farther side of the Continent. The mere statement thereof shows the theory to be preposterous. Civil actions for libel may stand on a different footing, but criminally a person charged with publishing a libel is answerable only once, at the place of publication.

A more recent decision of the United States Supreme Court seems to modify the doctrine laid down in the Dana case; but it is only a seeming modification. It has been held that the process of a Federal Court extends jurisdictionally to all parts of the United States. Thus a warrant issued in Oregon might be executed in Florida, or vice versa. But this applies only when a statutory crime against the United States is charged in the warrant. The managers of a criminal Trust, though residents of New York, might be made to answer an indictment under the Sherman act found by a Federal grand jury in Omaha. But libel is not in the list of Federal statutory offenses.

### Shreckengast-Armbruster.

Harry M. Shreckengast, of Millmont, and Miss Catharine Armbruster, of Farmers Mills, were married at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Elmer C. Hettinger, near Centre Hill, Wednesday evening of last week, at eight o'clock. Rev. B. F. Bieber performed the ceremony.

The young couple will take up house-keeping at Farmers Mills, where Mr. Shreckengast will be engaged at the carpenter trade. Both bride and groom are popularly known in their respective localities.

### Methodist Conference.

The forty-first annual session of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the M. E. church will be held this year in the Fifth street church, Harrisburg, the week beginning March 5th. Rev. H. H. Hart is pastor of the church and will be the Conference host, while Bishop John W. Hamilton will preside over its sessions. The annual temperance address will be made by ex-Gov. Joseph Hanley, of Indiana.

### Transfer of Real Estate.

Herbert S. Smull et ux to John Brungart, Aug. 7, 1907; lot in Smulltown. \$425.

Katharine McKinney to Clara B. Quay, Oct. 17, 1908; lot of ground in Howard borough. \$180.

Thaddeus D. Stover et ux to C. C. Smull, president of the Smulltown Water Company, March 26, 1908; tract of land in Miles twp.

George B. Waite, executor and trustee of Mary Waite, deceased, to Thad. D. Stover, April 1, 1905; in Miles twp. \$481.

Advertise in the Reporter.

### THE PIKE QUESTION.

County, City or Borough to Maintain Abandoned or Condemned Turnpikes.

[By D. F. FORTNEY]

On the 20th day of April, 1905, there was an act of Assembly approved which provided, "That when any turnpike or part thereof, has been or may hereafter be appropriated or condemned for public use, free of tolls under any existing laws, and the assessment of damages therefor shall have been paid by the proper county, such turnpike or part thereof, shall be properly repaired and maintained at the expense of the county, city or borough in which the said turnpike, or any part thereof, lies, or the same may be improved under any existing law, by said city or borough."

This act was enlarged by an act approved April 25th, 1907, by inserting after the words, "paid by the proper county"; "Or when any turnpike company or association has heretofore abandoned, or may hereafter abandon its turnpike or any part thereof; or when any turnpike company or association owning any turnpike, has heretofore been dissolved or may hereafter be dissolved by proceedings under existing laws of this commonwealth", and before such turnpike etc., as in the original act.

When the act of 1905 came out, and townships desired that the county should repair the turnpikes condemned, and for which the county had paid the damages, the county resisted on the ground that the act was unconstitutional: First. Because the title was defective and therefore in violation of the third section of Article III, of the constitution relating to title of acts of assembly.

Second. Because the act was in violation of the sixth section of Article III, of the constitution relating to the revival or amendment of acts of assembly.

Third. Because it was in violation of the first section of Article IX, of the constitution relating to uniformity of taxation.

Fourth. Because the act was local or special legislation and therefore in violation of section seven of Article III, of the constitution.

In an elaborate opinion the Superior Court, in the case of the Commonwealth, ex. rel., vs. Bowman, which went up from Cumberland county, filed February 29, 1908, over-ruled all objections and declares the act to be clearly constitutional.

In the case of Clarion county vs. Clarion township, where the same objections were raised, and which was taken up after the passage of the act of April 25, 1907, the same Court held, that both acts were constitutional. On appeal from the Superior to the Supreme Court the first case was affirmed on the opinion of the Superior Court, and the second case by reason of the affirmation of the first case by the Supreme Court, was never appealed from the decision of the Superior Court.

In disposing of the second objection set out above the Court held "That the act did not extend any old law, nor was it part of a system devised, for

opening toll roads to the use of the public, but that the act was in form and legislative intention new law, complete in itself, and did not require the enforcement of any other statute to give it effect."

It is not necessary to go into what the Court said on the other objections raised to the constitutionality of either of the acts. They were all over-ruled and both acts declared to be within the limits of the constitution.

The reader will note that the amendment of the act of 1905 by the act of 1907 very much enlarges the scope and purpose of the original act.

In this county there are a lot of old pikes abandoned years ago. If they are now to be thrown on the county, it will have a tremendous load to carry. There is the Phillipsburg and Tyrone pike, the old pike extending from Bellefonte to the Susquehanna by way of Snow Shoe, the Bellefonte and Phillipsburg pike, extending from Unionville to Phillipsburg. These pikes and perhaps others were abandoned because railroads to Phillipsburg, Snow Shoe, and from Lock Haven to Tyrone made them useless, and too burdensome to keep up as turnpikes.

The clause in the act of 1907 amending the act of 1905 is as broad as language can well make it. The first clause reads, "Or when any turnpike company or association has heretofore abandoned or may hereafter abandon its turnpike or any part thereof; . . . such turnpike or part thereof shall be properly repaired or maintained at the expense of the county, city or borough in which the said turnpike or any part thereof lies."

The expression "heretofore abandoned" may go back any length of time, and cover turnpikes abandoned thirty, forty or more years ago.

There must be at least one hundred miles of condemned and abandoned turnpikes in this county, perhaps one hundred and fifty miles. The county cannot maintain this without the expenditure of large sums of money, it is true that the county commissioners have the right to raise the necessary funds by taxation, but when they do the people should remember why it is done.

While the Courts held that these acts of assembly are constitutional the system is wrong, the repair of these pikes which under the law have become public roads, either by being abandoned or by condemnation, should be under the care of the local authorities. The money to be expended in their repair will be better expended, more care will be exercised and better oversight given to the work that is done. Of late there has been an immense amount of legislation which puts burdens on the county with the idea that it relieves the several townships, but this is, not really the case, because the county is obliged to increase the taxes in order to meet the extraordinary expense put upon it by this system of legislation.

### LOCALS.

February will show up well as a wet month, that is if it is compared with the dry months of 1908.

E. C. Ross is busy taking down the old Dale mill, which he has purchased and intends using to build several houses in Lemont.

Mrs. Mary Shoop, who had been in Harrisburg for several months, is now in Washington, D. C., where she will remain for some time.

Editor Kiefer, of the Millinburg Times, while feeding a job press, had one of his hands badly squeezed, but no bones were broken.

Postmaster G. M. Boal and E. D. Brislin were in Bellefonte Monday, and shook hands with the many "old boys" who wore the blue during the sixties.

Willard McDowell, of Howard, who has been confined to his bed for the past several months from rheumatism and in an entirely helpless condition, was able to sit in a roller chair to take his meals last week.

Roy Shaffer moved from Graysville to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Shaffer, east of Centre Hall, where he and the family will remain until the first of April when he will become tenant on the Charles A. Krapp farm, adjoining where the senior Mr. Shaffer lives.

A flock of wild geese passed over Centre Hall Saturday evening. About eight o'clock they hovered over the town, having come close to the ground. It is presumed they became bewildered on their northern flight by the street lights, and dropped to investigate. It is early in the season for geese to fly, and it is taken as an indication of early spring.

### LOCALS.

A son was born to Hon. and Mrs. J. W. Kepler, in Pine Grove Mills. Congratulations.

Harry Doty's saw mill, located east of Rebersburg, was destroyed by fire one night last week.

"Let the buyer beware!" John Parr says is the watchword of the Wall Street manipulator. His article in the March Everybody's is called "The Stock Yards of New York."

Mrs. Harriet Rimmey, who makes her home with her son David Rimmey, at Pleasant Gap, is in very delicate health, and owing to her advanced age it is feared she will not recover. Mrs. John Frazier is assisting to take care of her.

When President-elect William H. Taft was made a Mason "on sight" in Cincinnati, the Pennsylvania jurisdiction was represented by Grand Master George B. Orsady, of Huntingdon, and other Masons of high standing in the state.

Perry H. Luse, of Centre Hall, Thursday of last week returned from a visit to his sister, Mrs. (Dr.) Ed. L. Miller, at Johnstown, and also stopped at Tyrone for several days. He is under the impression that there is considerable doing in those cities, and is surprised at the complaint of hard times by the residents there.

Merchant A. A. Frank, of Millheim, purchased the Muser house lot, and will erect a splendid business block on it. The structure will be of brick and will cover the whole of the front of the lot. The first floor will be used as a store room and will be occupied by A. A. Frank & Sons, and the upper floor will be fitted up for lodges and other purposes.

### Edgar E. Austin Killed.

Tuesday evening of last week Edgar E. Austin was fatally injured at the East Tyrone engine house. While repairing a locomotive in company with other machinists it was found necessary to run the engine out of the building and just as the cab was passing a partition Mr. Austin stuck his head out of the window and was caught between the engine cab and the building. Everything possible was done to help the man, but his injuries were such that he died, within about an hour.

Edgar Engels Austin was born at Boalsburg, and was aged forty-seven years. When a boy, he moved with his parents to McAlevys Fort and later went to Tyrone, where he has since resided. Three brothers survive, namely: James M., of West Winfield, Butler county; Alfred F. and William W., of Tyrone.

### From Johnstown.

From a letter published below, received from S. M. Goodhart, who is employed by the Rothery Company, house furnishers, in their branch establishment in Johnstown, it appears conditions in that city are not working on the border of prosperity. Mr. Goodhart writes thus:

We appreciate the Reporter very much; it is a most welcome visitor to our home.

The Flood City has not as yet seen very much of the "prosperity" wave. The mills are not working to any great extent, and business is spasmodic, and, in general, things are rather in bad shape.

We are having real mild weather here at present, with plenty of rainfall.

### King-Huff.

George Norman King, the versatile entertainer, of Pine Grove Mills, was married to Miss Helen Huff, of Lock Haven, last Friday, by Rev. Lewis Nichols, at St. Paul's rectory, in the presence of the immediate relatives of the bride and groom. The Lock Haven Express thus comments on the nuptial event:

The bride is the daughter of Theodore Huff, of East Water street, and is an estimable young lady. For some time past the groom has been the vocalist at the Pastime theater, but recently assumed the management of the Bellefonte opera house, which is one of the places of amusement controlled by Manager Jones, of the Pastime theatre in this city.

### Potato Statistics.

The United States bureau of statistics has made an inquiry among potato growers and interior dealers in the principal potato growing sections of the United States as to stocks of potatoes on hand, January 1, 1909. From the replies received it appears that on that date about 32.5 per cent. of the crop raised for market in 1908 was held by growers and 11.3 per cent. by interior dealers. Growers held 13.3 less and dealers 12.7 per cent. less than they did on January 1, 1908. The total potato production in the United States in 1908, as estimated by the bureau was 279,000,000 bushels, or about 10 per cent. less than in 1907.

### From Kansas.

From Jewell, Kansas, comes a bit of information that will be kindly received by the Reporter readers. The writer of the lines below is Benjamin Muser, president of the Citizen's State Bank, in Jewell, Kansas, and is well known to many of the readers. Mr. Muser says:

We have real winter weather here now. In fact have had short spells of winter about every other week for some time, the alternate spells of weather being the other extreme—warm and spring-like. I hope to visit my Pennsylvania relatives and old acquaintances some time within the present year.

### The Wieland Farm Sold—Perhaps.

The Wieland farm, at Linden Hall, was recently sold to Merchant John M. Wieland, of Boalsburg, for \$3500, according to rumor, but papers have not been signed.

The Wieland farm contains about one hundred and eleven acres, and is in good tillth. David Snyder, now tenant on the Prof. P. H. Meyer farm, east of Linden Hall, will move to the Wieland farm.

### Death of a Baby.

The five months' old son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bradford, at Old Fort, died Sunday morning. Interment was made Wednesday afternoon at Centre Hall, Rev. D. Gress officiating.

The death of the child was due to inflammation of the bowels.

The Susquehanna University Glee Club and String Instrument Organization are booked to appear in Bellefonte, in the interests of the Lutheran church in Bellefonte, March 30th.

### TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

#### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The Pink Label this week.

A flock of wild geese, a blue jay—both signs of spring—have been seen.

A Bell telephone was installed in the residence of Mrs. Mary A. Ross, in Centre Hall.

Mrs. Herbert Brungart, of Jeannette, was the guest of the family of ex-Sheriff Brungart, in Centre Hall.

The State College Times has been enlarged and is now a six column, eight page paper, being in form and size the same as all the county papers.

Claude E. Wert, of Tusseyville, will begin farming after April first, at which time he will succeed his father on the farm occupied by him for a number of years.

Messrs. John R. and James H. Schrack, of Lemont, were in Centre Hall Friday, and were among the Reporter's callers. The Schracks are carriage builders, and are doing a nice business.

This February has not made a record for being the coldest month in the year anyway. There is a March in each year, however, that rarely fails to make a record of some sort distasteful to most of us.

It will be news to most of the Reporter readers to know that Mrs. J. Frank Ross, at Pittsburg, has been seriously afflicted with rheumatism. Her condition was such that the knowledge of the death of her father was kept from her.

Mrs. Charles H. Meyer and Mrs. D. W. Reynolds, of Reedsville, drove to Centre Hall Friday and returned Wednesday. Before returning, Mrs. Reynolds visited the families of Chaney Hicklen, M. I. Gardner and F. M. Crawford, in Bellefonte.

The Tresler Orphan's Home, at Lloydsville, has a serious diphtheria outbreak with twenty or more children sick. The institution has a population of two hundred and forty inmates, and is owned and supported by the General Synod of the Lutheran church.

Because congress failed to appropriate money to establish free delivery at new offices, State College will be obliged to wait for that convenience until cash is forthcoming. Otherwise a free delivery system would have been put in operation there the first of March.

The conundrum supper given Saturday evening by the ladies of the C. E. Society of the Presbyterian church in Grange Arcadia, was well attended. The menu was elaborate, and every dish was prepared with great skill. The ladies were dressed Martha Washington style, and the young men said they looked pretty.

Constable Charles D. Frazier, of near Colyer, was a caller Friday, but neither tapped the editor on the back nor read a notice in his hearing. Constable Frazier says the people in Potter township are all too good to support an officer of his standing. That is quite creditable to the citizens of Potter township, but mighty hard on constables.

A girl of sixteen years, daughter of Grant Showers, of Phillipsburg, died from blood poisoning a short time ago. A pimple on her forehead was picked with a pin, blood poison developed, and death ensued within a week. This emphasizes the necessity of being very careful not to use befoiled instruments of any character when coming in contact with open wounds.

H. J. Lambert, the corrugated-edge shear man, just returned from a trip through the south, having been as far down as southern Florida. His trip was a successful one. During the coming summer he contemplates improving his home, on east Church street, purchased a few months ago, by building a porch, repainting the whole structure, and will also do some interior remodeling.

E. C. Johnson and F. A. Randolph, of Pine Grove Mills, were in Centre Hall Friday and called on the Reporter. Mr. Johnson represents the firm of Randolph and Tate, dealers in furniture, paints, wall paper, upholstery, at Pine Grove Mills, and Mr. Tate is the son of the senior partner in the firm. They are both young and energetic men, the kind who will some day become the leading business men in their locality.

During the winter of 1889-1890 there was no ice cut until Friday, March 7th. On that day the mill dams across the valley were lively spots. Ice cutting and hauling was kept up until Sunday morning, and Sunday night after twelve o'clock, the work was resumed. All the ice that was hauled that year was secured on Friday, Saturday and Monday, March 7, 8 and 10. There were many ice houses that year that were for naught but ornaments.