



THE MOON AND POTATO CROP.

The Old Belief that the Moon Controls the Potato Crop Exploded by Tests Made by Agricultural Department.

In this section of the country, as well as in others, the farmer is heard discussing with his neighbor as to the proper phase of the moon in which to plant potatoes. It has been handed down from one generation to another until it has become an established custom to plant potatoes in the dark of the moon if you would have a good crop.

This idea has been exploded by the agricultural department and here is reproduced an article from the Scientific American, the best authority on things scientific, which follows:

"After exhaustive experiments in potato planting, the United States Department of Agriculture has to say that, in season, one time is as good as another to put potatoes in the ground. "Almost everyone, even if he were not reared in the country has heard of the idea of planting potatoes in the dark of the moon. The field workers of the Department of Agriculture have been investigating the matter and have found that seventy per cent. of the farmers of this alleged enlightened country put in their crops and do a good many other things about the farm governed solely by the moon's phases. Many farmers will tell you if you plant potatoes in the dark of the moon they will run to tubers, and if in the light of the moon they will run to tops and the crops are planted accordingly.

"There is usually a basis in fact for any superstition and the moon superstition is so deeply rooted that a number of experts from the Department of Agriculture while going up and down and across the land have made it their business to study the question and see whether there might not be a germ of truth or, at least, some reason for the general belief that the moon's phases have an effect on animal and vegetable life. They have concluded after patient investigation that the moon myth is one of the comparatively few myths that date back to pure savagery and has absolutely not an atom of scientific foundation on which to stand. The agricultural experiment stations all over the country have been defying this superstition for several years and raising just as good crops when the moon was one way as when it was the other. Therefore, once for all, it is conclusively decided that there is nothing to the theory that potatoes should be planted in the dark of the moon.

"All of this may not seem very serious investigation for a great government to undertake, but the work nevertheless has been interesting to scientists, and if they have succeeded in weaning a few from the old superstitions about planting potatoes, they have been well paid for their work."

Orphan's Home at Greenville.

Hereafter June 24th must be counted one of the important days in the history of the Reformed church in this country. On this date the new St. Paul's Orphan's Home at Greenville was formally consecrated, and the church's work of caring for the helpless and dependent children, was thereby given greater opportunities than ever before. On June 23, 1906, the old Home at Butler was sold, in Nov. 19, 1907 the farm of 300 acres at Greenville were selected as the site for the new home. On July 11, 1908, the corner stone of the new buildings was laid with appropriate services, and on June 24, the home was consecrated. When the consecration services began, thirty-three ministers of the Reformed church were on the platform. The singing was led by a choir made up of the children of the home. It was a day of rejoicing, and gladness filled the hearts of the people who were present.

The Demand for Jig Saw Puzzles.

The demand for jig saw puzzles increases every week. Every Sunday The Philadelphia Press awards 200 of these fascinating games to solvers of the puzzles printed in The Sunday edition of The Philadelphia Press. Hundreds of keen-witted readers have expressed their appreciation of the amusement these puzzles afford and write that they mean to try to solve the puzzles every Sunday. Interesting to grown-ups as well as the little ones. Get The Press early next Sunday.

Bryan Writes to Taft.

If President Taft will submit to Congress an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of senators by direct vote, so that the state will vote when the vote to ratify the income tax amendment is taken, Bryan will pledge him all the support in his power to secure its ratification, according to an open letter issued by Bryan to the president. He says it would make his administration memorable.

Barn Burned.

The large barn, just remodeled last year, owned by William Bodle, near Hunter's Park, was totally destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon of last week, the structure having been struck by lightning during a heavy electrical storm.

Mr. Bodle, a son and hired man had just driven into the barn with the last load of hay, tied their horses to the gun wall and were watching the shower passing over them, when the barn was struck, and in an instant the whole structure was a mass of flames. They did, however, manage to get their team from the barn floor, and also run out a few implements, but a colt and six calves perished, as did also a large amount of hay.

The son was badly stunned by the electricity, but no ill effects are anticipated.

The Centre Hall base ball team was on Hunter's Park at the time of the storm, and on seeing the flash of lightning ran to the barn, and were of material assistance in saving property. Reuben Garis caught a team of horses and disentangled them from a wire fence, and Lester Baird and William Bradford captured a horse just as he was making a dash for the door of the burning stable.

Insurance was carried in the Centre Hall fire insurance company for \$1000.

The barn will be re-built at once.

LOCALS.

The showers, the middle of last week, interfered to some extent with cutting grain.

Irvin W. Zeigler has changed his location from Lambertville, New Jersey, to Oley, this state.

Sidney Poorman, on the James A. Keller farm, is reported having had a fine crop of hay and grain.

Hon. A. G. Morris, of Tyrone, will become a resident of Bellefonte, and Hon. W. C. Lingle, will leave Bellefonte to locate in Philipsburg.

While Merchant John W. Runkle, of Middleburg, was driving from Lewisburg to his home, one of his horses got sick and died near New Berlin.

Harry W. Dinges, who pays considerable attention to growing small fruit, brought to this office a bunch of red ox-heart cherries that for size and flavor will be hard to excel.

If you are in need of a wagon, a wagon that runs easy, will wear long, consult Foreman & Smith, Centre Hall. They have just what you want, if it is a sound, bang up wagon you are after.

W. O. Rearick, at Milroy, sold out his grain and coal business to his competitor, and since the first of July has been devoting his time to purchasing grain in car lots from grain merchants, in which business he had engaged to some extent during the past year.

A serious mishap befell Michael Weaver, and resulted in internal injuries that may prove fatal. Mr. Weaver was on his way with a team for a load of sand, and it appears he received a sun stroke, which caused him to fall from the wagon onto a stone in the road. He was picked up by a neighbor, near Howard, who summoned a physician.

A Marsh Creek farmer, Joseph Poorman, received a painful injury while cutting grass. The machine was being adjusted by Mr. Poorman, who was standing in front of the cutting bar, when the horses suddenly started, the guards catching his heel, and the knives severing the tendons. The injuries are of such a character that the member will never be able to properly perform its functions.

During these busy seasons on the farm it will not pay to neglect the product of the cow. If your separator is not giving satisfaction, get one that will do the work properly. The loss of one cent a day, on all the cows you keep will pay the interest on a D. Laval cream separator that will skim clean, run lighter and last for many years to come, besides it will keep you in good humor when you are turning the crank. Talk to D. W. Bradford at Centre Hall, on this subject.

The young school teachers, and prospective school teachers, should not complain because the examinations for teachers' certificates are becoming more and more rigid. The profession should maintain a standard even much higher than it now does, and it is only by elevating the standard that better salaries may be demanded. In years gone by a school teacher was looked up to as one possessed of educational qualifications, if not always a man or woman of refinement, later the rank and file fell to a lower standard, but now it is on the rise again. It is only by the most severe slashing on the part of the superintendent that the standard may continue to rise, and a teacher's diploma be properly appreciated by its holder and the public.

Huntingdon County Accidents.

Lewis C. Corbin, of Juniata township, finding a hog eating one of his young turkeys, threw a brickbat so hard at the hog that striking a rail it flew to pieces one of which struck Mr. Corbin's three year old boy in the head, possibly inflicting a fatal injury. The hog was not hurt.

The large bank barn on the farm of McAllister Myton, located near Cottage, was destroyed by fire early Thursday morning, entailing a loss of \$2000, upon which was no insurance. The farm is tenanted by Joseph Gilliland. The quick work of the men saved the stock, but everything else was destroyed, including the new made hay and a new wagon.

John S. Couch, a Miller township farmer, was seriously and perhaps fatally injured while cutting wheat with a binder on Tuesday. While he was fastening the hames on one of the horses, there being two horses and two mules in the machine, the mules started to run, knocking Mr. Couch down and the binder caught him and dragged him until he came to a ditch in the field when he rolled in the ditch, which saved him from instant death as the machine ran over him. One of his legs was broken and ankle dislocated and on the other side his hip was dislocated besides being badly bruised and cut about the head and body.

Pennsylvania Free of Debt.

It is perfectly fitting that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should be free of debt, a contingency shortly to be realized. A state possessed of the resources, the natural wealth and marvelous manufacturing equipment such as this enjoys should never have incurred a public debt. That it has done so might be attributed to the fact that it has so long been conducted under the management and for the benefit of a corrupt and defiant political machine. What the balance on the right side of the ledger might have been had the political machinery been controlled by honest, public-spirited, efficient and zealous public servants can only be imagined. We do know, however, that boss rule entails an unceasing drain on the treasury.

Appites to Centre Hall.

The versatile writer of "Jottings by the Wayside," in the Millburg Telegraph, makes the following well-put remarks, which apply with equal force to Centre Hall:

By a careful calculation it appears there are just about 500 people in town disgraced and annoyed by about ten dogs running the streets. A man may not spit about in public places under a penalty of one dollar, but the dog may pollute the pavements, the corners, porches, posts, store goods and even people's gardens, all for why? Because people are afraid to stop it. They want it stopped but fear offending a few. What brave cowards men are. Even the women scrub and clean up the dirt in silence until it ceases to be a virtue, so the Slink Peddlers can roam about.

Franchise Extended.

The Sunbury, Lewisburg & Milton Electric Railway Company has received notice that the extension to its line from Lewisburg to Milton has been granted by the state. This means that the company has a complete chartered route between Sunbury and Milton. The line will connect with the Sunbury and Sellersgrove Company's tracks at Shamokin Dam. From there it will be run to Lewisburg by way of Winfield, then over the new inter-county bridge to East Lewisburg and on up to Milton, provided its owners mean business.

Site for Malta Home.

A site has been purchased for the proposed home and hospital to be erected by the Knights of Malta of this state. It is the Rittenhouse farm, near Lewisport, containing 135 acres and which cost \$6000.

It is the intention of the order to erect a home and hospital for the care of aged and sick members, together with widows and orphans of dead members, and it is expected that about \$100,000 will be required to erect suitable buildings. The money will be raised by assessments on the various commanderies in the state.

Arms and Spine Injured.

David Corman, who lives along Pine creek, in Haines township, fell from a cherry tree while picking cherries and sustained severe injuries. The limb on which he was standing broke precipitating him to the ground. His left arm was broken, his right arm and spine were injured and his right side paralyzed. His condition is serious.

The Centre Hall-Linden Hall telephone company will hold its annual picnic at Rhonemede, Saturday, August 7th.

DEATHS.

PHILIP MUSSER.

Philip Musser, son of John and Susan Musser, was born in Centre county, February 19, 1823, and passed away at his home in Lena, Illinois, July 10, 1909, aged eighty-six years, four months and twenty-one days.

His youth was spent on his father's farm near Bellefonte, and there he grew to manhood and received his education.

December 21, 1848, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Bike, of Aronsburg, and their union was a very happy one. In 1853 they moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, locating in Cedarville, where they resided until 1866 when they removed to Lena, Mr. and Mrs. Musser were the parents of five children, two sons passing away in early childhood, and three daughters, Mrs. Anna M. Shoemith and Miss Susie, of Lena, and Mrs. J. M. Cain, of Freeport, still living.

Mrs. Musser passed away July 31, 1898.

The remains were interred in the Lena cemetery. Those from out of town who attended the funeral were Rev. and Mrs. Colver and Elias Heckman, of Orangeville; Dr. and Mrs. Charles Lyons, of Brodhead, Wisconsin; Philip Swartz, of Peconatics, Mr. and Mrs. William Bike, of Red Oak; Rev. S. L. Stiver, of Bunker Hill, Illinois; Mrs. J. M. Cain and daughter Ethel, Charles Bike, Mrs. M. E. Kalley, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Stiver and P. O. Stiver and wife, of Freeport.

MRS. D. B. LOUDER.

Mrs. Addie E. Louder, wife of D. B. Louder, died quite suddenly at her home at Oak Hall Saturday morning, 19th instant. For the past year or so she had been a sufferer from diabetes but her condition was not even serious and she was able to look after her household affairs. Friday morning she was out driving with her husband but about noon she took suddenly ill and her illness was such an aggravated nature that she died at seven o'clock the next morning.

Deceased was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Irvin Ross and was born near Pine Grove Mills, January 7th, 1855. In August, 1878, she was united in marriage to D. B. Louder, of the Glades, and ever since the family have lived in upper Penna valley. She is survived by her husband and three sons, Ross, Elmer and Ralph, as well as the following brothers and sisters; J. H. Ross Linden Hall; E. C., of Lemont; Mrs. Alice Weaver, Mrs. James Lyle and Mrs. George Glenn, of State College.

Rev. W. K. Harnish, of the Presbyterian church, officiated at the funeral, and interment was made in the Branch cemetery.

TOBIAS WETZEL.

Tobias Wetzel, at one time a resident of Centre county, died at his home in Lock Haven on Monday afternoon of last week. He had been in poor health for a year or more and for two weeks prior to his death was confined to bed.

He was seventy-six years old and was born in New Berlin, Union county. Fifty years ago he came to Centre county and conducted a hotel at Nittany, later moving to Millheim where he was proprietor of the Union hotel. About the year 1870 he quit the hotel business and moved to Salona where he engaged in farming until the year 1879 when he moved to Lock Haven. For a number of years past he had been engaged in the dairy and milk business.

He is survived by his widow, two sons, Howard, of Lock Haven; John B., of Howard, and one daughter, Mrs. L. T. Allabach, of Lock Haven. He also leaves four brothers two of whom are Dr. F. F. Wetzel, of Millheim, and Samuel, of Aronsburg.

REV. DR. MILLIGAN.

Rev. J. Lynn Milligan, D. D. who was for forty years chaplain at the Western Penitentiary, died at the residence of his brother-in-law, J. Holmes Irwin, at Newport, Monday, of last week. He had been an invalid for six months. He was with the 140th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War. For thirty years he was Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Allegheny, and for eighteen years secretary of the National Prison Congress. In 1898 he was president of the American Prison Congress. Mr. Milligan was a brother of the late Mrs. Jennie M. VanTrie, wife of Dr. Thomas C. VanTrie, of Bellefonte. The funeral will be held today, at Williamsport.

After an illness of six weeks with typhoid fever, Mrs. C. P. Barr died at her home in Gatesburg, aged fifty years. Her maiden name was Susan Harpster, and was born at Colerain Forge. The husband and one son, Alfred, in South Carolina, survive.

The Indian.

Children's Day services were held in all the local churches in Centre Hall, and the writer made just a bit of inquiry as to the size of the coins that filled the collection baskets on these particular occasions. The funds collected on Children's Day is devoted by all churches to the most noble cause of the church's work, yet if the audiences had tried to out-do each other in giving Indians, it is not likely that a larger percent of that smallest coin would have found its way into the collection basket.

But who gives the pennies? The poor? No. The children? No.

The visitors from other churches? No.

Who then? *The stingy.* As a rule it may be overlooked when the child drops the Indian at a church service. It is the denomination of coin he is accustomed to handle. But it is not the child that fills the baskets with pennies. No, not the child. The little boys and girls too often watch the basket go by with the expression that "papa will pay" and he does with a penny. The little boy and girl cannot reach a church without passing a slot machine, and he must turn his back and walk fast if that little crank does not appeal to him too strongly to resist exchanging his Indian for the cheapest candy on earth.

But the Indian, the dirty penny, who gives it? The man and woman, the young man and young woman, all of whom have earning capacity, if not a bank account, are the niggardly stingy who drop the dirty pennies at religious services. And they do so without shame. These people spend liberally on themselves, liberally compared to their earnings, for luxuries, but at the religious service they have the gall to shake their wallet until a penny comes to the top, and this is dropped with an air as if it were an eagle. There is hope for the boy or girl or any one without earning capacity or means, who with a degree of shame permits his or her pennies to reach the altar, but there is no hope for the redemption of the miser who carries a fifty dollar watch, buttons his shirt sleeves with gold buttons, wears five-dollar patent leather shoes, creased trousers, smokes cincoes, and then gives the Indian. Neither is there hope for the man who lives retired with a farm back of him from which his living comes, or the man holding the mortgages, bank, railroad or other stocks, who gives an Indian, nickel, or a dime. His coin should be the quarter, the half-dollar, dollar and eagle.

Business Men's Picnic, August 24. The annual meeting of the Centre-Clinton Business Men's Picnic Association was held Friday, at four o'clock, at the Club House of the Clinton Country Club, a short distance from Mill Hall. Some thirty members were present and held a very pleasant and profitable meeting. The old officers were re-elected for another year, with the exception of the office of vice president, which had been filled by C. F. Montgomery, now deceased. Phil. D. Foster, of State College, was elected to fill the vacancy. The picnic this year will be held August 24th. Every effort will be made to make this the best yet. Last year's picnic was conceded to be the best picnic the Association has ever had but with increased funds for entertainment, and active work on the part of all the members, there is every reason to believe that the coming picnic will eclipse all former ones. The next business meeting of the Association will be held at the Bush House, on 30th inst.

From the Journal. John Reighard and Ellwood Scott, of Shamokin, spent some time with Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mauck. Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Auman and Elmer Ross, of Pittsburg, spent the past week at the home of W. N. Auman. Mrs. Wallace Weaver and young son, of Philadelphia, are visiting among relatives and friends in this place and vicinity. William Swann, of Baltimore, spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of his father-in-law, J. H. B. Hartman, where Mrs. Swann has been staying for the past several weeks.

Edward Bowersox, of Altoona, a son of Frank Bowersox, who was a former resident of Penn township, was in town visiting old acquaintances. He had not been here for seventeen years. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kerstetter and son Ralph, of Coburn, accompanied by Prof. and Mrs. Orvis E. Meyer and daughter Marion, of Philadelphia, who are spending some time at Coburn, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hosterman.

Charity may cover a multitude of sins, but they are apt to show through.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

July 29th will be Methodist day at Lakemont park, Altoona.

Lock Haven and Williamsport capitalists will drill for oil at Hyner. Miss Ida Rhoads, daughter of W. W. Rhoads, of Howard, has recovered after a serious illness.

For the past two weeks W. B. Mingle, Esq., has had cabbage for table use from his model garden.

The showers last week made the corn hump; tickled the oats almost to death; and in potato lots one could hear the command "lay over!"

D. K. Keller, according to the stories related by his hay-makers, had a crop of hay that was called first-class both as to quantity and quality.

D. L. Kerr, sometime ago, laid a cement walk from the main walk to his residence. A walk of a similar kind is being constructed in front of the residence of Mrs. Lizzie Jacobs.

M. C. Gephart, the Bellefonte musical instrument dealer, was in town last week, and while here placed a piano in the residence of D. A. Boozar, the saddler and liveryman.

Miss Lida Musser has forsaken the profession of school teaching, and has enlisted with the nurses. She is now at the Bellefonte hospital, and is taking a course to become a trained nurse.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meyer returned from their western trip. They were accompanied by their grandson, Harold Musser. The west had many attractions for them, but after all Centre Hall is the old home.

Mrs. Mary A. Neff, formerly of Centre Hall, who for a number of years has been making her home at Bethany, Illinois, just returned from a trip through Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. She was much pleased with the country, and states the crops looked fine.

The Centre Hall junior base ball team went to State College Thursday morning and from there to Hunter's Park where they were scheduled to play a game with State College. Rain interfered, and the boys returned feeling they would have won had the elements not shut out the game.

The Lock Haven State Normal School completed the most prosperous year in its history. The graduating class numbered one hundred and it was a fine body of young people. It is gratifying to note that all who desire to teach have schools. This Normal School is one of the best in the state. Write for a catalog.

William Vonada, a blacksmith at Fiedler, was severely burned while heating wagon tire. As the fire was not burning briskly enough for him he attempted to stert it with coal oil, and while pouring the oil from a can onto the fire the oil ignited and exploded the can. His clothing was set on fire and he was severely burned about the head and breast.

The first annual reunion of the Reformed churches of the Aronsburg charge will be held in Dr. G. S. Frank's grove, west of Millheim, Thursday, August 5th. The Coburn, Aronsburg and Penn Hall bands are invited to be present. Prominent speakers will make addresses in the forenoon. Refreshments will be served on the grounds. Everybody is invited to be present.

The best evidence that the readers of the Centre Reporter appreciate the paper is that they pay the subscription promptly, and ungrudgingly. The Reporter is worth much more than the subscription price to any one who has an interest in Penna Valley, no matter how many other papers come on his or her table. Nothing but the Reporter fills the bill—it is old enough to be good and not too old to be stale.

Henry Gunasalus, a son of Ira Gunasalus, of Liberty township, was taken to the Lock Haven hospital suffering from gun-shot wounds. The unfortunate young man was in the woods with a fishing party and had joined them only a short time before, when a hammerless shot gun belonging to George Miller, one of the party, was discharged while they were sitting on a log, the shot passing through one of his hands.

The Howard Creamery Corporation is having a sink put down at their Centre Hall plant, the old sink having filled up. The drilling is being done by Richard Ercoid, of Pennedale, Lycoming county. Mr. Ercoid is not here at present, trusting in this instance like ofttimes heretofore, to the good judgment and oversight of his superintendent Arbor J. Cumings, of Linden Hall, and assistant David Taylor. These parties have put down a number of wells in Penna Valley, and have had the good luck to secure strong streams of water.