

The Centre Reporter.

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FROM ILLINOIS

Rev. John Adam Bright Has Vision of the Scenes of His Youth and Tells it to the Reporter Readers.

EDITOR REPORTER: I have been in Lancaster, Illinois, one month, engaged in holding an evangelistic meeting in the Lutheran church, with good success. I purpose closing on Sunday evening, February 6th, and will then go to Mt. Carmel, Illinois, to begin a meeting there, and from Mt. Carmel, I will go back to my home in Campus, Gove county, Kansas.

This place derived its name from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from which locality many persons emigrated to this vicinity in 1846. The inhabitants all speak "Pennsylvania Dutch," and it reminds me of good old Penns Valley, where I was born and reared, and I feel very much at home among these people. Their ways are similar to those of "the old folks at home." On the bill of fare, for instance, you find Pon Hoss, Garlick and Corlander Sausage, Liver Wurst, Zitterle, Lepy Kucha, Schintz Boy, and sich. Dear O dear, how my mind goes back to the old home at Aronsburg, where we used to gather around the table and partake of all the above to our fill. Yes, and Schmere Kase, too, I almost forgot. I remember how I would call out to the head of the family as he sat at the head of the table: "Pap, geb mir noch ein schtuck Schunka Flaseh, aber ken Schpeck." (Father give me some more ham but no fat.) But alas those happy days are gone, never to return. How different are the habits and ways of the people now generally from what they were when I was a boy at home, sixty years, and more, ago.

Well I was going to tell you that my wife forwards my mail, and in it I get the Centre Reporter. I have just finished reading the issue of January 20th, and as a result I am inspired to write you this article. I was overcome with a genuine homesickness when I read those names. To begin with, the "ex-recorder" himself—"Old Bill" Tobias! How my mind went back to Rebersburg, Millsburg, Bellefonte and Unionville, and many other places where he and I attended County Institute together. I wish I might have had the pleasure, and honor, of being one of the guests around the table at the "National" that evening! I imagine I would have eaten very little, but instead would have spent my time in talking with George Frank, Ceph Gramley, (cut out titles "Doctor" and "Professor") John Bright, "Hen" Phillips, Harve (or Hol—which) Crouse, Bill Peeler, Lute (Loot) Sover, Al Frank, Hen Duck, and Pierce Musser. Say, don't that sound familiar? Wish I had time to go back to the days of "Auld Lang Syne" and tell you something about some of those fellows. Ask Dr. Frank and Prof. Gramley, Squire Musser and old Bill himself—they know. Wonder why the boys didn't make Bill sing, "Sallie Ann's Away." However, perhaps, he sang it, and the fact wasn't mentioned. Bill was a sweet singer in his days. Pity Henry Dasher couldn't be there, too. I see he writes for your paper occasionally. I remember Henry very well, and would be glad to see him once more. Wonder whether he remembers me. I see he lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Why don't he come to see a fellow out in Kansas some time. It isn't so far, and he would enjoy the trip.

I wish to be remembered hereby to all the boys, especially to the "ex-recorder," and earnestly hope that he may live many more years beyond the seventy-seven, and that his final exit may be one full of pleasant and satisfactory retrospection, and that some sweet day he and I may meet in the beautiful hereafter, in that "home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." So mote it be.

Very Sincerely,
JOHN ADAM BRIGHT.

Lancaster, Illinois, Feb. 4

The Sparrow is Condemned.

The government has written a new indictment against the English sparrow. In an official bulletin just issued the strong declaration is made that "in its economic relations the English sparrow among birds is comparable to the rat among animals." Added to this arraignment is the sentence of extermination, for the government would have the people rise up and destroy the sparrow by waging unremitting war upon its nest. This, it is suggested, would attain to better results, and in a more humane way, than to shoot or poison the birds themselves. The damage done to fruits and young vegetables, and to the buds of cultivated trees and shrubs, and the scattering of tree scale, attributed to the English sparrow, is given as the reason for this newest official condemnation.

Dr. Chase—Saturday night.

The Split Log Drag.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company is taking a deep interest in the construction of good roads, and they are at least willing to do their part in obtaining better roads than we now have. With this view in mind the Company has had shipped to a number of stations along its lines split log drags to be used on the roads next to the stations, and when not in use there, may be used in any section of the township.

The inexperienced man who looks at a split log drag is certain to condemn it. It has the general appearance of an altogether ineffective machine. It is so simple in construction and operation that one not acquainted with its efficiency is apt to turn from it with disgust. The split log drag needs to be seen at work to be appreciated. For the dollars expended in cost of operation no machine will equal it.

In districts where these split log drags have been located, the supervisors should give them fair trial as soon as the conditions on the road are favorable. Mr. King, the Missourian, who is the inventor, lays down this simple rule as to conditions: "Wet, but not sticky."

There are Two Chases.

The Reporter wishes to remind the public that there are at least two Chases on the platform. One is Rev. W. H. Chase, prominently connected with the Anti-Saloon League. The enemies of this cause have been diligently circulating the report that it is Rev. W. H. Chase who is booked for the lecture Saturday night, the purpose of this being very apparent. There are some people in every community who seek to injure every good movement, and it must not be assumed that Centre Hall is without this element, but they are very few in number, and well known and have but little or no influence.

Mattison Wilbur Chase, the lecturer booked for Saturday evening, is a Chicagoan. He is a high-priced lecturer, very much beyond the financial reach of this community, and it is only because he happens to pass through this section of Pennsylvania on Saturday that it was possible to secure him to appear at Centre Hall. No one who comes to hear Dr. Chase will regret it.

The Gregg Farms Sold.

The Gregg farms, located two miles west of Centre Hall, on the Brush Valley road, were sold recently to Nelson Marshall, a Union township farmer, living near Fleming. The farms adjoin each other. The one, tenanted for the past thirteen years by John A. Heckman, contains about one hundred and eighty-seven acres, and the one on which Daniel Callahan lives about two acres less. In the first farm there are about one hundred acres under cultivation, and in the other ten acres less. The purchase price was \$12,000.

Mr. Marshall is a practical farmer. Some years ago he purchased what was considered a poor farm in Union township, and by skillful management got it into fine tilth, and last year sold it at a good price. He expects to move on the farms as soon as he can obtain possession, which will be a year from the first of April, as neither of the tenants now on the farm were served with quit notices on the first of the year.

The sale was negotiated by Clement Dale, Esq., of Bellefonte.

An Important Duty.

Many Road Supervisors have neglected to measure their roads and to report the mileage to the State Highway Commissioner, as the law directs. Consequently, they will not be able to get the state appropriation, which is due them if the law is obeyed. Suit may also be brought against them for violating their oath of office, neglect of duty and contempt. While this will punish the road supervisors, the taxpayers who those officers represent will suffer in loss the fifty per cent. of the road tax refunded by the state.

Road supervisors should understand that the law is to be obeyed, not as an imposition, but for their own best interests as a whole. The notion that the law is to be winked at and the official to be treated as an imposter, is a fete and out of date. The better way is, to fall in with the new ways and measures, get into the procession cheerfully and get all the benefit of it one justly can.

The new Bucknell University catalogue now in press shows an attendance of over 700 students, of whom 527 are in the College. There are over fifty instructors in the various departments. The chief event of the year was the opening of East College, devoted chiefly to engineering, erected at a cost of \$65,000.

Dr. Chase—Saturday night.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

BOALSBURG, FEB. 18-19.

A Farmers' Institute will be held in Boal's Hall, Boalsburg, Friday and Saturday, February 18th and 19th. There will be six sessions—three on the first day and three on the second. All sessions are open to every one, and all expenses are paid by the state. The program, which will be interspersed with music, follows:

THE PROGRAM.—FRIDAY MORNING.

Devotional Exercises, Rev. A. A. Black.
MR. E. W. SWEENEY, Address of Welcome.
MR. KESTER Response.
DR. FUNK Pruning, Fertilizing and Thinning.
DR. HUNT The Improvement of Meadows and Pastures.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

MR. DOCKEY How to Handle Barn Yard Manure Successfully.
DR. FUNK Spraying.
MISS LOVEJOY Modern Housekeeping on the Farm.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MR. KESTER The Education We Need.
MISS MARGARETTA GOHEEN, Recitation.
MR. DOCKEY The Farmer's Boy and Girl and How to Keep Them on the Farm.
DR. HUNT Address.

SATURDAY MORNING.

MR. KESTER Small Fruit Growing.
MR. AGE Alfalfa.
MR. DOCKEY Value of Corn and How to Raise a Successful Crop.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

DR. FUNK Potato Culture.
MR. AGE The Right Use of Lime.
MISS ANNA DALE Recitation.
MR. KESTER Dairy Types and Breeds.

SATURDAY EVENING.

MR. AGE The Chance of Winning.
MR. KESTER The Farmer as a Citizen.
MISS LOVEJOY Modernizing the Old Farm Home.

Saturday afternoon a practical demonstration of the fireless cooker will be given, in the High School room, by Miss Lovejoy.

The sessions will open as follows: Morning, 9:30 o'clock; afternoon, 1:30 o'clock; evening, 7:30 o'clock.

The Institute lecturers are these: Elmer E. Dockey, Elizabethville; R. P. Kester, Grampian; Henry W. Northrup, Dalton; Miss Sarah C. Lovejoy, Dr. Thomas F. Hunt, Prof. Alva Agee, State College; Dr. J. H. Funk, Harrisburg.

LICENSE REFUSED IN CENTRE HALL BOROUGH.

Thursday afternoon the Court filed its decision in the liquor license case in Centre Hall borough. The license was refused, on technical grounds, or because the application was not filed within the statutory limit of three weeks before "the first day of the session of the court at which the same is heard." By the way of information it may be stated that at least three other applications for hotel license, (in addition to that of Mr. Runkle's) in Centre county, bear the same date as does the one refused. The other three were granted.

Appended is the full text of the decree:

THE DECREE OF THE COURT.

James W. Runkle, the applicant, is the owner of a hotel property in the borough of Centre Hall, and for a good many years preceding this application has been licensed by this Court. A year ago a remonstrance signed by a very large number of the inhabitants of the borough, was filed against granting of this particular license, upon the ground that the majority of the citizens of the borough were opposed to the liquor traffic, especially within the limits of the borough. We granted the license at that time in an opinion carefully explaining that the remonstrance had not set forth any valid or legal reason that would appeal to the judicial discretion of the Court, and that what evidence was taken either on the part of the petitioner or the remonstrants all tended to sustain the legal presumption as to the applicant's personal fitness as well as that of his house for hotel purposes.

At last December sessions the application of Mr. Runkle for the year beginning April, 1910, was again presented, and again a remonstrance has been likewise presented, signed by many of the citizens of the borough. Evidence was taken on both sides and oral and written arguments made practically upon two questions.

First, a question of fact, whether or not the applicant had not been guilty of violating the provisions of the Brooks or High License Act in an alleged selling of liquor to men of known intemperate habits and minors.

Second, a question of law, whether or not the application was filed within the statutory time, thus indirectly denying that we have jurisdiction to grant the prayer of the petitioner and issue the license.

As the second question is the serious one that confronts us at the threshold, we will content ourselves by saying that so far as Runkle's management of his bar and hotel in the past appears from the evidence the weight is decidedly in favor of his moral character and general fitness. Several of the remonstrants admit further that a hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public is necessary in their town, but prefer that it should be run as a temperance house.

Under a general rule of court the regular term begins on the first Monday of December, the "term" to continue for a period of two weeks. Section 4 of the Act of May 13, 1887, requires the petition for license to be filed "at least three weeks before the FIRST DAY of the sessions of the Court at which the same is to be heard." As a matter of fact the Runkle petition was

character, applicable to all cases, was duly published, and has been in force continuously ever since. It was to meet the almost unanimous wishes of the licensees themselves; because many of them being tenants and all leases in this county beginning and ending on the first day of April, it was generally thought desirable to fix license court at the December sessions so as to enable sufficient time for the execution of leases and the warning by landlords to disappointed petitioners to vacate the premises.

But the petitioners lay great stress to the fact that we fixed Saturday of the second week as the time for hearing petitions. That would make it the time from which to fix the date for the filing of the application, and that instead of it being required to file the application at least three weeks before the Monday of the first week of court it need to be filed only three weeks before the Saturday of the second week of court. It is further contended that the Court of Quarter Sessions has power to fix special sessions independent of the regular term of the Common Pleas or Sessions. But we cannot agree with this reasoning however subtle to overcome the plain verbal requirements of the act. We would construe our rule to mean that the Court of Quarter Sessions will be a license court at the December sessions, but for the sake of convenience will not hear the evidence or argument of either petitioners or remonstrants until the Saturday of the second week when the major part of the business for that term and sessions shall have been completed.

It is with this thought in mind that it would be more convenient to ourselves and there would be more time for the taking up of this part of the Quarter Sessions work at the end of the term rather than the beginning that induced us to make this particular rule. Something in the nature of a court fixing a particular day for the trial of a cause in the Common Pleas or in the Quarter Sessions.

As a matter of fact, our December Term almost invariably sees court in continuous session up to and including Saturday of the second week, and should there be any temporary adjournment of court because of the condition of the trial list, the minutes will show, as at the December term an adjournment to the Saturday of the second week. We cannot admit the argument that on the day the petition was presented, namely, Saturday of the second week, we were sitting as a special court—it was part of the regular term. The counsel, of course, are familiar with the fact that when we sit as a Court of Common Pleas we do also as that of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace. It is unthinkable that there should be a special sessions at the same time there is a general sessions. We have thus carefully dwelt upon this contention and based our action upon a technical ruling for the benefit both of the petitioner himself as well as the other licensees in the county. But upon this technical ground we feel compelled to refuse the application.

And now, to wit, February 10, 1910, the application of James W. Runkle for hotel license in the borough of Centre Hall is hereby refused.

By the Court,
(Signed) ELLIS L. ORVIS, P. J.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Dr. Chase—Saturday night.

None of the local ministers ventured to their out of town appointments last Sunday. In fact, driving was suspended by all on that day.

The members of the Philadelphia Association of Centre County held their sixth annual banquet at the Normandie, Sixth and Chestnut street, Wednesday evening.

The Centre County Bible Society has a surplus stock of Bibles and Testaments, all prices, that are offered for sale at less than cost. Apply to Rev. R. Crittenden, Bellefonte.

Do not fail to hear Dr. Chase Saturday night of this week. He is a higher priced man than either Mr. Cope, who failed to appear, or Mr. Ratto who pleased every one in the house.

Mrs. John G. King attended the funeral of her brother, Dr. W. T. Eagle, in Pittsburg, which occurred Friday. She was accompanied by her niece, Miss Margaret Farey, of Bellefonte.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company prepared for free distribution a booklet on growing alfalfa that is worth the reading. Call on your local agent for a copy, if you do not already have one.

H. F. McMansway, who had been ill in a hospital in New Ark, Ohio, for some weeks, was brought to his home in Millheim, and is now gaining strength daily. This will be a bit of news his many acquaintances in Centre county will be glad to read.

Fleming is wanting a postmaster and is willing to pay him \$500 a year, and on March 4th applicants for the position may undergo examination in Bellefonte before a United States Civil Service Commissioner. The Fleming office is in the fourth class.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Bieber, father and mother of Rev. B. F. Bieber, of Centre Hall, arrived here Saturday evening and remained for a few days. They live near Milton, and like everyone who is well brought up think their home town and community the best in the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook Hubler had quite an experience in driving from Sugar Valley to Centre Hall, on Saturday. It was impossible to reach their home over the Brush Valley road, so they drove back and came by the way of Millheim, but experienced much difficulty in traveling on account of the numerous and deep snow drifts.

Postmaster General Hitchcock's unpopular suggestion that the rates for second-class mail matter be increased has been vetoed by the congressional committee on postoffices and post roads, which has decided to make no change in the existing regulations. It is determined to be an unwise move, and one considered highly impolitic.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Faxon, of Rebersburg, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Sabra D. Faxon, to Melvin Patterson Pitts, of Alexandria, Va. The wedding, which will take place in Gorgona, Isthmus of Panama, where Miss Faxon has been with her sister the past year or more.

Among the Reporter's callers on Friday were Messrs. Daniel P. Houser and John A. Heckman, both farmers west of Centre Hall. Mr. Houser is pretty well advanced in years, and stated that he had been rather unfortunate this winter, having fallen several times on the ice and injured his shoulder, and since rheumatism had set in, which is not at all to his liking.

Thursday night of last week B. H. Arney, who lives immediately east of Centre Hall, was taken violently ill, while at home with his wife. He was not resting well and got up out of bed, and on doing so fell backward onto the floor, and for some time was unconscious. Mrs. Arney succeeded in arousing him, and putting him to bed, and then went for the doctor. He has since been improving, and his many friends will be glad to know it.

The man who handles the local department of a newspaper learns after due experience not to expect even briefly expressed thanks from a column of pleasant things, but he knoweth as surely as cometh the winter that a single line in which there is an unintentional representation will cause some one to be heard from as if from a house top. And it may be added that when he has made pleasant mention nine hundred and ninety-nine times of some person, place or thing but on the thousandth time fails to do so, he must not expect to be forgotten. The omission may have been from accident, inadvertence or even an entire lack of knowledge. It matters not. The simple fact remains and he will be judged by that.