



TOO MANY CHURCHES IN THE COUNTRY.

Communication VI. If Christians once come to believe there are too many churches in the rural portions of our land, an essential step to the reduction of their number has been taken. That this conviction is growing will hardly be denied by any intelligent student of church affairs. Another step in the same direction is the increasing desire for denominational harmony and the inclination to eliminate what disturbs this harmony. Straws show which way the wind of church unity blows. Some years ago a man, who had a great reputation for building up his own church but without regard to other churches in the neighborhood, came to take charge of his denomination's church in a certain village. It was a strong church, nearly as strong as the united forces of the other churches of the place. He began after his usual method practically ignoring the presence of other churches. The community had been enjoying several years of delightful church comity. His own people relished the new order of things so little and his course was so unpopular generally that his most heroic efforts failed to achieve the results that usually followed his labors. A denominational rally was being held in a certain place where it had the largest church. One of their strongest preachers was imported to make an address. This address was a laudation of his own branch of the church from beginning to end with a reiterated plea for more zealous study of the doctrines of the denomination. It was all right. If others did not like it, they need not listen. I do not know that members of other churches made any criticism; but much fault was found by members of his own church. They seemed to fear it would alienate the good will of the other Christians of the community, and they did not want that. Many little incidents of this sort reveal the sincere fellowship underlying the churches and the awaking desire that the barriers to its free exercise might be removed. Another indication of growing church comity and a means to its exercise is the organization in 1908 of a Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, "to manifest the essential oneness of the Christian Churches of America in Jesus Christ as their Divine Lord and Savior, and to promote the spirit of fellowship service and cooperation among them for the prosecution of work that can be better done in union." This organization represents thirty-two Christian bodies, with a membership of about 16,000,000 whose influence "is herein devoted to the application of the law of Christ to every relation of human life." Auxiliaries to this Federal Council are being organized in the various states, counties, cities, and villages; and will doubtless in time be found a means of promoting voluntary consolidation and cooperation. Again during the last generation many important branches of the church have united to form one branch, and practically no new branches of great extent have developed. In Canada three great churches—Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, and Presbyterian—have been conferring on the subject of union with very hopeful prospects of success. Throughout the world various movements are underway looking to the union of important Protestant bodies, two or more of all them. These movements have assumed such proportions that some of the ablest men in the various denominations are willing to give time and others their money to advance them. More definite still, in some of the New England states, at least, leading denominations have organized Commissions to promote a union into one of the churches in over-churches communities; and in some instances these efforts have been successful. Other instances in other parts of our land are known where the local churches have of their own accord come together and formed a union church, or sometimes a church of a denomination to which none of the uniting churches previously belonged. Whether these consolidations have in all cases prospered I know not; but in some cases great gain to all religious interests is reported. All these things are encouraging to the believer in church unity. In communities not yet ready for consolidation there should be cooperation. Not only does the spirit of Christianity suggest this; but more and more it is becoming evident that certain kinds of work for the establishment of the kingdom in a neighborhood can be better done and in some cases only done, by a united effort of the churches. Let me close these articles with a quotation from one who has thoroughly studied the rural situation in the United States with a high appreciation of the place of the church in all true progress, Wilbert L. Anderson: "There is a limited sphere within which the consolidation of farms is demanded; there is a widespread movement for the consoli-

MUSSER HOME BURNED.

Emanuel Musser Dies Twenty Minutes After Being Removed from Burning Building. The home of Emanuel Musser, east of State College, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday night, about twelve o'clock. Mr. Musser was taken from the attic window, conveyed to a neighboring house, and died within twenty minutes after the rescue. Mr. and Mrs. Musser, both of whom are aged people, lived in the old home occupied by them for more than thirty years. They lived alone, and on Saturday night retired as usual. A little before twelve o'clock the couple were awakened by a bright light and the crackling of flames of fire, and to their horror they discovered their home to be on fire. As quickly as possible they arose, and made an effort to reach the first floor and to a point of safety. Mrs. Musser descended the front stairway, and soon an outer door. Mr. Musser thought he was following his wife, and went to the rear stairway. Escape was cut off by that way, and the man became bewildered. He went to the third floor, threw open a window and began calling. Just at the opportune moment, Philip Hoover, the farmer on the Musser farm, came driving along in a sled, having with him a number of young people whom he had taken to Boalsburg for an evening's outing. The fire, of course, was observed, and then the cries of a man for help heard. A ladder was procured, and the elderly gentleman was taken from his burning home. He was taken to a nearby house, and although not at all injured the shock was so severe that death came before anything could be done to relieve him. The fire is thought to have been caused by a defect in an open fire place. The loss occasioned by the fire is not less than \$3000.

Expression on License Question.

The sentiment on the license question, the sentiment of the large majority of the people in Centre Hall, is expressed in the following note that through their attorney was presented to the Judge Orvis by the resident pastors and a committee from each of the five churches in Centre Hall, at the time appointed to hear petitions for and against the granting of licenses in Centre county: To His Honor, Ellis L. Orvis, Judge of the Courts of Centre Co.: We the undersigned, resident pastors and joint committeemen of the various churches in Centre Hall, respectfully enter our most earnest and solemn protest against the granting to any one, now or hereafter, a license to sell intoxicating beverages in our borough. We believe that the granting of such license serves no good purpose, and only puts temptation in the way of the young and the weak, brings anxiety and sorrow to the parents and children whose loved ones lose their manhood and respectability through strong drink; moreover many whose money is needed to buy food, clothing and shelter and to pay honest debts are tempted by the open bar beyond their power to resist to spend their money for that which only injures them and diminishes their power to be useful citizens. Under former remonstrances we had hoped that the Court's interpretation of the law would be in accordance with the ruling, as we are informed, rendered in some of the other counties of the state, so as to give efficiency to the wishes of the great majority of our citizens and so banish the evil from our beautiful village; but since the ruling of the Court is the law with us and since the repeated ruling seems to make further remonstrance useless we refrain from remonstrating for this reason alone and not because we have changed our views that a licensed bar in Centre Hall is not needed or surrender our conviction that license here is an evil and an evil only. We believe that in speaking as above we express the views and convictions of the great majority of our citizens. Respectfully submitted, REV. W. H. SCHUYLER, Pres., REV. S. A. SNYDER, Secretary, REV. FRED W. BARRY, REV. R. RAYMOND JONES, GEORGE L. GOODHART, J. T. POTTER, JOHN H. WEBER, DR. H. F. BITNER, E. M. HUYETT, D. F. LUSE, W. W. SPANGLER, W. H. BARTHOLOMEW, DANIEL DAUP, WILLIAM B. FIEDLER, Committee.

TEACHER'S LOCAL INSTITUTE.

Teachers and Directors Practically Ignored the Sessions, While Attendance of Patrons Was Good. The school directors and school teachers have little interest in their respective positions as officers and instructors if their attendance at the local institute held in Centre Hall, on Saturday, signifies anything. One director from Centre Hall, H. G. Strohmeyer, and two from Potter township, Elmer E. Royer and William Bower, were the only representatives from the most important bodies of officers elected by the people who gave encouragement to the institute by their presence. Twelve teachers were present, six of these are residents of Centre Hall, and one was a visitor from another district. The teachers present were: Prof. C. R. Neff, D. Ross Bushman, Ethel Grieb, Helen Bartholomew, Thomas L. Moore, John C. Bailey, Mary Homan, Ruth Bower, Elizabeth Bitner, Viola Harter, Dora Ishler, R. U. Wasson. At the forenoon session "Methods of teaching" were discussed by Prof. W. A. Kries and C. R. Neff, and "The efficiency of teaching how improved," was dwelt on by Rev. F. W. Barry and Miss Homan, none of the other speakers being present. R. U. Wasson was called on by the chairman and gave a good talk on the subject. "The parent as a factor in a well regulated school," was a subject assigned to Rev. W. H. Schuyler, and three teachers. Dr. Schuyler had the subject to himself and gave some valuable expressions. Miss Grieb followed with a recital of a poem, which was well rendered. "What should be taught in the public school," was the foundation of a stirring talk by Prof. Neff, whose ideas on any subject pertaining to public schools are well worth the hearing. Were it possible to do so, the Reporter would gladly give space to every word uttered by him on the subject named. "The necessity of proper ventilation in the school room," was a subject assigned to three teachers, and a professional man, none of whom were present. Dr. Schuyler and Prof. Neff gave the subject some attention. Both sessions of the institute were interspersed with music furnished by a number of ladies, namely, Mrs. John H. Puff, Mrs. Samuel S. Kreamer, Mrs. Thomas L. Moore, Mrs. L. G. Reardon, Miss Helen Bartholomew, with Prof. P. H. Meyer as organist. Centre County Association Banquet. The board of directors of the Centre County Association of Philadelphia, at a recent meeting held at the home of the president, Dr. Roland G. Curtin, decided to hold the next mid-winter banquet of the association Monday, February 19th. Transfers of Real Estate. B. F. Davis, et al to Annie Harper, tract of land in Ferguson twp. \$125. Annie C. Rowland et al to Centre-Clearfield St. E. R. tract of land in Phillipsburg. \$3500. Elizabeth M. Shattuck to Ellen M. Stuart, tract of land in State College. \$100. G. Edward Haupt et ux to William W. Laird et ux, tract of land in Bellefonte. \$550. I. J. Dreesse to William Brennan, tract of land in Benner twp. \$6000. Robert F. Hunter to W. F. Ryndolds, December 16, 1911, tract of land in Benner twp. \$3600. John H. Luz et al to Robert F. Hunter, December 16, 1911, tract of land in Benner twp. \$3600. Mary R. W. Gordon to L. W. Peters and A. F. Hockman, December 28, 1911, tract of land in Walker twp. \$390. Henry H. Fredericks et al to A. R. Lee, April 1, 1911, tract of land in Harris twp. \$5000. Thomas Meyer to L. E. Kidder, January 6, tract of land in Harris twp. \$7800. John H. Musser et ux to Jonathan Harter and Samuel Musser, tract of land in Millheim. \$200. Harry E. Fleisher et ux to Susan Fleisher, tract of land in Potter twp. \$450. Charles W. Whitehill to James C. Gilliland, tract of land in College twp. \$10. To The Dairyman. I have recently received a car of Superior Dairy Feed. This feed has proven to be one of the best dairy feeds on the market, one of the feeds that brings satisfactory results. Try it and be convinced. It is also an excellent feed for calves and young shoats. R. D. FOREMAN, Centre Hall.

JUDGED BY THE CITY DAILY.

The New York Journal's Opinion of the Importance of the Country Weekly Newspaper. The editor of the New York Journal is recognized as one of the most vigorous and effective editorial writers of the country. Recently in a four column editorial he told why the so-called "local" newspapers constitute the greatest force for good in the country. Extracts from it are good enough to be reprinted here: "Big metropolitan newspapers with circulations running into the many hundreds of thousands daily have a peculiar power of their own. But if you took all the metropolitan newspapers of the United States and weighed them in the balance against the press of the small cities and towns in America, it would be as though you weighed a city office building against Pike's Peak—and the local press would be Pike's Peak. The local editor speaks to his readers as one friend speaks to another. They know him by sight. They know his record. They know the hard fight he has made and is making. They know for how small a reward he renders efficient, unselfish service. And a word from him means more than many columns from some anonymous and unknown editor of the big city." The politicians of this country know well the power of the local editor. They respect it and fear it—and it is a good thing for the country that they do. A man writing fearlessly in some Congressman's or some Senator's home town can do more to keep that public official "straight" than all the metropolitan dailies put together. The editorial especially commends the local newspaper as an advertising medium and says it is unfortunate that the business men of the country are ignorant of that power, and that the man who has something really worth while could multiply his sales by ten, make himself known to millions that do not know him and put himself at the head of his line of competition. After further tribute to the country newspaper, the article concludes: "That is why we have in the past and do today and shall in the future try to impress on our readers and on big advertisers the fact that they should do their share toward supporting the local press of this country. There would be and could be no philanthropy about it, simply wise self-interest should make every citizen buy his local paper and make every advertiser contribute according to his means to the support of the local press. The citizen that buys his local paper gets his money back many times over in protection of his interests. And the man who advertises widely and wisely in the local press gets his money back many times over in cash returns. The people should not be niggardly in support of those that do good work. Business men and the public generally should be especially broad-minded and liberal in their support of the local newspapers that represent and testify public opinion throughout the country." To all of which we little country fellows emphatically say amen.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS. George E. Breen sold his driving horse to Ezra Harter, of near Spring Mills. Costing on the foot of Nittany Mountain was in fine condition for several days during the past week. Last Thursday Mrs. Henry Swab, of Centre Hall, had the misfortune to fall and has since suffered from the injuries thus sustained. Edward Allison, prominently connected with affairs at Pottery Mills for many years, was quite ill last week, but is now very much better. Edmond Conrad, editor and proprietor of the McVegtown Journal, died at the age of seventy-two years. He was a veteran of the civil war. Centre County Pomona Grange is in session today (Thursday) in Grange Arcadia. Installation of officers is one of the items on the program. George Thomas and son Hal Columbus, of Nittany Mountain, last week, went to Howard to inspect a farm they may buy after the state takes over their property on Old Nittany. The splendid ruins obtained from feeding alfalfa to milk cows has been discovered by Mrs. J. W. Shook, of Spring Mills, and she is now feeding a better balanced ration to her cows than heretofore. A. W. Dale, of Oak Hill, is one of the many farmers in Centre county who will quit the old farm next spring. Mr. Dale will move to Boalsburg, and will be followed by the Dale homestead by his son, Luther Dale. William Schrader has escaped the hangman's noose. His sentence has been commuted to life imprisonment. Many Mifflin county business men aided Schrader in his successful effort to escape the death penalty. The remainder of his life will be spent in the Western Penitentiary. William D. Strunk will move from the Benner farm, about April 1st, to one of the Struble farms, near the Zion railroad station, where he will be employed by Howard Struble. Mr. Struble lives on the farm next to the station, and the one Mr. Strunk will occupy adjacent to it. The Strunk sale advertised in these columns will take place as announced. The thirty-fifth annual report of the Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, P. of H., appears in this issue. The company's condition is first-class. The territory in which it insures has been contracted, as the statement says, and the result is insurance has been cheapened. The company now has a good balance in the hands of the treasurer. Charged with affixing canceled postage stamps to letters and pocketing the equivalent in cash, John H. Beck, a clerk in the State College postoffice is under arrest. He evidently had been carrying on this small business for some time. The clerk is a native of Marion township, and before becoming a clerk in the postoffice was one of the carriers at State College. He will have his hearing in March at Scranton, and is now under bond. The Keystone Gazette says: On Friday of last week Mrs. Lewis Mensch, of Aaronsburg, mother of Charles F. Mensch of the Gazette, underwent a serious operation at her home. The operation was performed by a specialist of New York City assisted by the family physician, Dr. C. S. Musser, of Aaronsburg. Since the operation Mrs. Mensch has been improving rapidly and it is the fond hope of her many friends that she will speedily regain her usual good health. Several Bellefonte merchants cashed checks for a stranger calling himself John Parker, and now they are sorry. The checks were forgeries, and bore the name of B. F. Homan, of State College, and were drawn on the First National Bank, Bellefonte, where Mr. Homan did not have an account. The parties who dealt with the young man, aged about twenty, were Potter-Hoy Hardware Company, A. C. Mingle, and Sim Baum. The first party has the Parker-Homan check for \$500 and the other two each hold one for \$1800. Charles H. Vonada, of Sylvan Grove, Kansas, is at the home of his uncle, Lawson Burris, west of Centre Hall. Mr. Vonada has just completed his three-year enlistment in Uncle Sam's army, having received an honorable discharge after the troops were called from the recent Mexican uprising. He thinks the army just the place to round out the man and prepare him for better work in civil life. During his term of army life Mr. Vonada was in every state in the union with the exception of a few eastern states, and on his present trip he hopes to complete the circuit. By trade Mr. Vonada is a barber. When buying a cough medicine for children, bear in mind that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is most effective for colds, croup and whooping cough and that it contains no harmful drug. For sale by all dealers.

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