



STATE ROAD-BUILDING.

Question Much Discussed in Rural Sections Since Surveyors are in Valley.

Since the surveyors, under the direction of the State Highway Department of Pennsylvania, have been surveying through Penna Valley, a new question is up for discussion among those interested in the welfare of their community. With a view of casting light on several phases of the road question the writer quotes a few paragraphs from the act of June 1, 1911, which act establishes the State Highway Department, and is the only law under which counties, boroughs and townships can secure state-aid for road building, previous acts on the state-aid points having been repealed.

To begin with it will be well to understand that the two hundred and ninety-six (296) routes, from county seat to county seat, laid out by the act referred to above and to be built and paid for wholly by the state, will be known as *State Highways*, and roads otherwise built by counties, boroughs and townships to which the state contributes a part of the cost, are known as *State-aid Roads*. The route now being surveyed from Lewistown to Bellefonte, which is route number twenty-seven, will be built by the state and wholly paid for by the state, and is therefore a State Highway.

Township roads, abandoned and condemned turnpikes forming a part of State Highways will be taken over by the state prior to June of this year. Toll roads, owned by corporations or individuals, forming a part of State Highways will not be purchased until all the routes now laid out are completed. This means that the State Highway from Lewistown to Bellefonte will be built as far as Centre Hall, and then, after all other State Highways now laid out have been built, the state will take over the pike from Centre Hall to Bellefonte. During this time the pike company will conduct their improvements, collection of tolls, etc., as heretofore.

Section three of the law provides that the state may purchase machinery, wagons, horses, etc., for road building purposes, or it may have the roads built by contract.

Section seventeen provides for the erection of suitable signs, having the words "State Highway," the year of construction, distance and directions to villages, etc. Trees may also be planted along the State Highways and taken care of by the state.

Section eighteen provides that the material used in construction of State Highways shall be selected by the State Highway Commissioner and may be of brick, gravel, cinder, oyster-shell, or other materials; the width of road bed to be not less than twelve feet.

Section twenty provides for the purchasing by the state of material and labor for repairing State Highways.

STATE HIGHWAYS THROUGH BOROES
The question which most interests the residents of Centre Hall is whether the State Highway Commissioner will build a State Highway through the borough limits of Centre Hall. The State Highway Commissioner has the power to do so and pay the bill out of the state funds if he wishes, but he cannot be compelled to build through boroughs. Section ten of the act covers this feature, and is reprinted below:

Section 10. Anything herein contained, or any apportionment of the State into highway districts, shall not be construed as including or in any manner interfering with the roads, streets, and highways in any of the cities, boroughs, or incorporated towns of the Commonwealth: Provided, That where any road street or highway within the limits of any borough or in any incorporated town shall form a part or section of any State Highway, as herein described, and the same, or any part thereof, is not already improved or reconstructed according to the standards of the State Highway Department, or in any manner equal to said standards, by the borough or incorporated town, the State Highway Commissioner, by and with the consent of the borough or town councils, may improve or reconstruct such unimproved section or sections of such road, street, or highway at the expense of the Commonwealth. And provided further, That any such road, street, or highway, or any part or parts thereof, forming a State Highway within the limits of any borough or incorporated town, shall only be taken over, at the discretion of the State Highway Commissioner, for reconstruction and maintenance by the State Highway Department, when the failure to so take over such road, street, or highway would leave an unimproved gap in a continuous improved State Highway.

The maintenance of any road, street, or highway, or of any part or parts thereof, improved or reconstructed as a State Highway in any borough or incorporated town, or the maintenance

Centre County Ministerial Union.

At the meeting of the Centre County Ministerial Union, which met in session on Monday morning, January 29th, after its reorganization, by re-electing the officers to serve another year, the object of the call of the meeting was stated. The secretary of the Bellefonte Ministerium presented the resolutions adopted by that body, and recommended them for adoption by the County Union. After careful consideration and discussion, the following resolutions were then adopted by this body:

We most earnestly and courteously request that you use your influence in securing as the nominee of your party for the Pennsylvania State Legislature, a man who will pledge himself:

(a) favorable to and willing to vote for the Local Option Bill that will be presented to the Pennsylvania State Legislature by the Anti-Saloon League.

(b) opposed to all bills that may be introduced in the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the form of anti-temperance legislation.

The Executive Committee was instructed to present these resolutions to the various chairmen and also to interrogate each individual candidate for the primaries.

The County Ministerial Union adjourned to meet at the next call of the Executive Committee.

Growth of the Grange.

During the year 1911 there were organized in the United States 453 new granges; there were reorganized 60 granges. There were issued during the year 453 dispensations; 453 original charters; 63 duplicate charters; 858 Seventh Degree certificates; and 3432 Sixth Degree certificates.

The Bell telephone subscribers at Millheim, Coburn and Rebersburg are on a fair way to get the rates adjusted in a way that will be satisfactory to all concerned.

[Continued from Previous Column.]

of any State-aid road heretofore improved or reconstructed, and which road forms a part of a State Highway in any borough or incorporated town, shall be done by the State Highway Department; and fifty per centum of the cost and expense of said maintenance shall be paid by the respective borough or incorporated town in which said work is done, as is provided for in the case of the maintenance of State-aid roads: Provided, That where any road, street, or highway, or any part or parts thereof, in any borough or incorporated town, has been heretofore reconstructed, as a State-aid road, with bricks, or other material than a telford, water-bound macadam road, or which may hereafter be reconstructed as a State Highway, with bricks or other permanent paving material, the said brick or paved road, street, or highway shall be maintained according to the standards of the State Highway Department, by the borough or incorporated town, wholly at the cost and expense of the borough or incorporated town in which said road, street or highway, may lie: Provided further, That if any borough or incorporated town shall neglect or refuse to maintain any such brick-paved road, street, or highway, forming a part of a State Highway, according to the standards aforesaid, the State Highway Commissioner is hereby authorized and empowered to maintain and repair said road, street, or highway at the cost and expense of said borough or incorporated town, after giving thirty days' prior notice to the councils of any such borough or incorporated town of the intention to do said work of maintenance and repair: Provided further, That upon the neglect or refusal of any borough or incorporated town to pay such cost and expenses within sixty days after the completion of such maintenance or repairs, the State Highway Commissioner shall take such action as is necessary to collect the same from the said borough or incorporated town refusing to make the required payment: And provided further, That all improvement, reconstruction, and maintenance of any road, street, or highway in boroughs or incorporated towns shall be of the same character as that done in townships.

STATE AID ROADS

Section eleven provides that boroughs may build State-aid Roads, fifty per centum of the cost of which shall be borne by the state, and twenty-five per centum of which may be borne by the county. The section further provides:

"That any borough which is willing to pay one-half the cost of construction of any such road may make direct application to the State Highway Department."

In all cases in boroughs the state will render aid only where a State Highway or State-aid Road has been built to the borough limits, by state, county or township.

LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS

Reporter Subscribers' Correspondent Column—New Department.
MEADOWDALE, Washington.

Dear Friend:

Enclosed you will find a money order for one dollar for which please extend my subscription one year.

I see by reports you have some below zero weather in Pennsylvania. These cold waves we are fortunate enough to escape. The grass here is green the year 'round as it never freezes hard enough to kill it.

We have had one snow of a few inches in depth which laid only a few days when a Chinook wind came and it soon disappeared. This will no doubt be all we will have as we only have about one snow a season.

Yours truly,
W. H. POTTER

From 26th West 53rd Street, New York, Hon. Henry W. Shoemaker, formerly secretary at a foreign post, story-writer and owner of the Reading Times, published at Reading, Pa., and the Bridgeport Telegram, published at Bridgeport, Connecticut, writes the Reporter this complimentary sentence: "I could not get along without your valuable paper and enjoy it more with every issue."

Laurelton F. O. Robbed.

The other morning when Postmaster Frank Schure, the obliging official who serves the public at Laurelton opened his office for the transaction of the day's business, he discovered that his strong box containing the office money and a lot of stamps had been appropriated during the night by some robber, and he was shy a nice sum of coin of Uncle Sam's realm.

Mr. Schure has been accustomed to taking his cash box home with him every night when he closed his business. Monday evening he was in attendance at some social function in the town, and his son was in charge of the postoffice. The young man when he closed the office, locked up the funds in the strong box and forgot to take the case along with him. The thief evidently was aware of this fact, and made an entrance through the cellar of the building and then easily got in touch with the treasures. He took the box containing about \$150 in cash and other valuables in stamps, etc., the loss to the proprietor being nearly \$250.

New Agents On L. and T.

Quite a number of changes in the Penney's big family have been unofficially announced, the promotions having taken effect February 1: D. W. Wendle, station agent at Montgomery, and formerly of Lewisburg, is transferred to Watsonstown; A. E. Grove, of Millmont to Elizabethville; E. C. Radel from Liverpool to Oak Hall; G. W. Meyers, for five years a clerk in Milton goes to McElhattan as agent Meyer's place in Milton will be taken by H. C. Meyer, formerly chief clerk at Millburg. G. M. Johnston was transferred from McElhattan to Glen Iron, succeeding W. A. Olenkirk, who retires from the railroad service, at least for the present.

Victor Grange Visited.

Twenty-seven members of Progress Grange paid a fraternal visit to Victor Grange, at Oak Hall, Saturday afternoon. Messrs. Samuel Durst, Cloyd Brooks, Carl Auman and Samuel Gingershich furnished the sleds and sleighs to take the members to Oak Hall.

A regular meeting was held by Victor Grange, and during the sessions a number of addresses were made by the visitors.

Card of Thanks.

Mrs. J. H. Lambert and family, of Centre Hall, return thanks to their friends who so kindly assisted them in caring for her mother, Mrs. Frances Colyer, during her last illness, and further aided them after her death, and at the burial.

Transfers of Real Estate.

W. Fred Reynolds et ux to John A. Wittmer, tract of land in Bellefonte \$225

John L. Holmes et al to C. M. Cronmiller, tract of land in Ferguson township \$300

Sarah J. Breen et al to S. Ward Gramley, tract of land in Millheim \$425.

Howard R. Pratt et al to Seth B. Pratt et ux, tract of land in Unionville. \$1.

Harvey J. Markle et ux to Ardella Lutz, tract of land in Spring twp \$350.

H. H. Eisenbath to John P. Wolf, tract of land in Penn twp. \$150.

Rachel M. Walker to Hezekiah Walker, tract of land in Boggs twp. \$1.

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

DECREASE IN AREA OF FARM LAND.

Average Value of Farms \$5715—Horses Lead in Value of Domestic Animals

Pennsylvania's farms decreased in number and acreage, while their value increased in the decade of 1900-1910, according to a bulletin on agriculture statistics for the state, just issued by the United States census bureau.

Notwithstanding the fact that the population of the state increased 21.6 per cent. from 1900 to 1910, the number of farms decreased 2.2 per cent., the acreage of farm land 4 per cent., and the acreage of improved land 4.1 per cent. the decrease in farm acreage being greater in proportion than that in the number of farms. The average size of farms decreased 1.6 acres.

Farm property, which includes land, buildings, implements, machinery, and livestock (domestic animals poultry and bees) has increased in value during the decade \$201,646,000, or 19.2 per cent. This great increase was principally due to increases of \$57,759,000 in the value of buildings, of over \$55,000,000 in the value of land and of \$58,850,000 in the value of farm equipment, including implements, machinery and livestock. Of the increase last mentioned, about two-thirds represents that in the value of livestock.

AVERAGE FARM WORTH \$5715.

The average value in 1900 of a farm with its equipment was \$4990, while ten years later it was \$5715. The average value of land alone rose from \$29.70 per acre in 1900 to \$33.92 in 1910.

The land area of Pennsylvania is approximately 28,692,480 acres. Of this area, 18,586,832 acres, or 64.8 per cent. are included in farms. Of the farm acreage, 12,673,519 acres, or 68.2 per cent. are reported as improved land, representing 44.2 per cent. of the total land area of the state. The total acreage of farm land decreased 784,183 acres, or 4 per cent. during the last decade and the acreage of improved land decreased 535,664 acres, or 4.1 per cent.

219,295 FARMS IN STATE.

The number of all farms, and therefore of all farm operators, is 219,295. Of the operators, 164,229 are owners, 3961 managers and 51,105 tenants. Of the owners, 154,088 operate exclusively land owned by them while 10,141 operate land which they rent in addition to that which they own.

Three-tenths of the farms in Pennsylvania are in the "50 to 99 acres" group, while more than one-fourth are in the "100 to 174 acres" group. Thus, more than one-half of all the farms in the state range from 50 to 174 acres in size.

Of the Pennsylvania farm operators, 93.4 per cent. are native white and 6.3 per cent. are foreign-born white. Only 546, or two-tenths of 1 per cent. are non-white; 543 being negroes and 3 indians. Of the native white farmers, 23.7 per cent. are tenants, as compared with 17.5 per cent. of the foreign-born white.

HORSES PASS CATTLE.

During the decade, domestic animals, poultry and bees combined increased in value \$39,041,000, or 38.1 per cent. While most classes increased in value, they changed in widely differing degrees. The greatest absolute increase is noted in the value of horses and colts, being nearly seven-tenths of the net gain for domestic animal as a whole. The relative increase was 66.2 per cent. Horses are now the most important class of livestock in the state, as judged by total value, whereas in 1900 cattle ranked first. The latter class shows an increase in value of only \$4,167,000 or 9.7 per cent. The largest relative increase is found in the value of mules, 120.9 per cent. The total value of swine increased \$1,794,000, or 30.8 per cent., and that of poultry, \$3,191,000, or 71.2 per cent. Sheep and lambs show the only noteworthy decrease, amounting to \$708,000, or 15.3 per cent.

The value of horses and cattle represent about 82 per cent. of the value of all livestock. Swine and poultry are almost exactly the same in value, and together represent about 11 per cent. of the total. Mules represent 4.5 per cent. and sheep 2.8 per cent.

FARM WAGES INCREASE.

Nearly two-thirds of the farmers hire labor, the average amount expended by the farmers being \$184. During the decade the total expenditure for labor increased \$8,964,000, or 53.8 per cent. which is one of the greatest relative increases in Pennsylvania agriculture during the decade. About one-fourth of the amount reported as expended for labor is in the form of rent and board. At prior censuses no tabulation was made of the number of farmers reporting expenditures for labor.

About six farmers out of every ten report some expenditure for feed, and about six out of every ten purchase fertilizers. The total amount reported as paid for fertilizers has increased \$2,116,000, or 45.1 per cent. during the decade, the average per farm reporting being \$241.

CENTRE COUNTY CENSUS REPORTS.

Array of Figures of Great Interest to Farmers and Others in the County.

The figures below are taken from a census bulletin just issued by the census bureau and refer to Centre county. A study of them will be of interest and value to every farmer in the county.

Population, 1910	43,484
Population, 1900	42,894
Number of farms, 1910	2,608
Number farms in 1900	2,339
Color and nativity of farmers—	
Native white	2,466
Foreign born white	141
Negro	1
Number of farms classified by size—	
Under 3 acres	5
3 to 9 acres	243
10 to 19 acres	176
20 to 49 acres	311
50 to 99 acres	561
100 to 174 acres	879
175 to 299 acres	315
300 to 499 acres	115
500 to 999 acres	17
1000 acres and over	5

LAND AND FARM AREA

Approximate land area, acres	78,460
Land in farms	28,692,480
Improved land in farms	18,586,832
Woodland in farms	85,528
Other improved land in farms	13,261
Per cent. of land area in farms	89.1
Per cent. of land improved	66.6
Average acres per farm	110.9
Average improved acres per farm	72.1

VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY

All farm property	\$13,356,911
All farm property in 1900	\$12,028,924
Per cent. increase, 1900-1910	10.9
Land	\$6,222,914
Land in 1900	\$6,903,200
Buildings	\$4,269,484
Buildings in 1900	\$3,186,220
Implements and machinery	\$892,925
Implements, etc., in 1900	\$775,470
Domestic animals, poultry, bees	\$1,851,617
Domestic animals, etc., in 1900	\$1,258,764
Average value per farm	\$5,114
Land and buildings per farm	\$4,025
Land per acre	\$21.70
Land per acre in 1900	\$23.20

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Farms reporting domestic animals	2,610
Value of domestic animals	\$1,868,472
Cattle—	
Total number	22,208
Dairy cows	11,950
Other cows	1,910
Yearling heifers	2,923
Calves	3,762
Yearling steers and bulls	1,664
Other steers and bulls	994
Value	\$567,466
Horses—	
Total number	8,217
Mature horses	7,457
Yearling colts	563
Spring colts	197
Value	\$1,066,785
Mules—	
Total number	229
Mature mules	229
Value	\$3,829
Swine—	
Total number	17,914
Mature hogs	11,721
Spring pigs	6,193
Value	\$41,800
Sheep—	
Total number	11,789
Rams, ewes, and wethers	6,589
Spring lambs	5,100
Value	\$8,529
Goats—	
Number	29
Value	\$33

POULTRY AND BEES

Number of poultry of all kinds	130,006
Value	\$4,221
Number of colonies of bees	1,042
Value	\$,994
Farms operated by owners	1,622
Land in farms operated by owners	151,064
Value of land and buildings on farms operated by owners	\$,286,794
Farms operated by tenants	98
Land in farms operated by tenants	126,320
Value of land and buildings on farms operated by tenants	\$,425,814
Farms operated by managers	48
Land in farms operated by managers	6,488
Value of land and buildings on farms operated by managers	\$80,000

FARM EXPENSES

Labor—	
Farms reporting	1,883
Cash expended	\$300,468
Rent and board furnished	\$4,304
Feed—	
Farms reporting	1,388
Amount expended	\$108,011
Fertilizers—	
Farms reporting	1,327
Amount expended	\$5,771

PRINCIPAL CROPS

Corn—	
Acres	27,068
Bushels	663,890
Oats—	
Acres	20,791
Bushels	518,229
Wheat—	
Acres	80,751
Bushels	446,860
Buckwheat—	
Acres	1,654
Bushels	20,666
Rye—	
Acres	1,914
Bushels	19,698
Potatoes—	
Acres	2,823
Bushels	251,062
Hay and forage, total—	
Acres	43,135
Tons	46,230
Timothy alone—	
Acres	10,284
Tons	11,069
Timothy and clover mixed—	
Acres	27,772
Tons	30,456
Clover alone—	
Acres	792
Tons	885
Alfalfa—	
Acres	36
Tons	107

Sunday night last, a heavy snowfall of four inches fell. That is a pretty good beginning for February.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Domer B. Ishler, who is teaching school in Harris township, will become a student in Valparaiso College, Valparaiso, Indiana, at the close of his school term.

Dr. E. E. Sparks, president of Pennsylvania State College, with his family, will sail for Egypt on 21st instant. He will return in time for the June commencement exercises.

John C. Rossman is recovering rapidly from a recent serious illness. Sunday he was down stairs for the first time, and hopes soon to be able to be out of the house.

The borough councilmen did not hold a meeting last Friday night, which was the stated time for the February meeting. Special meetings are held without notice to the public.

The professors, their wives and sweethearts, the stenographers and book-keepers, making up the agricultural department at Pennsylvania State College, were at the Centre Hall hotel on Friday evening.

The stove in the Sand Hill school house, in the vicinity of Howard, toppled over. The teacher, Miss Ethel Bitner, organized a snow-carrying brigade, and this saved the school house from destruction by fire.

A large milk condensing plant will be erected at Lewisburg, the construction of the building to begin at once. The building alone is to cost \$30,000. Watsonstown brick will be used, and the plant set on one acre of ground already purchased.

Two Elk lodges, one in Franklin and one in Oil City, were adjudged guilty of selling liquor illegally by the Venango county court. Visiting members had been sold liquor, and the court instructed the jury to bring in verdicts against the lodges.

Treasurer John D. Miller will become a resident of Bellefonte by April 1st, and will live on Curtin Street. Mr. Miller will make sale of his farm stock and implements Wednesday next week, as will be seen by referring to the sale register.

Miss Edith Ishler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ishler, is teaching instrumental music in Tyrone and has a class of thirty-five. She attended the funeral of her grandmother in Centre Hall, on Friday, but was obliged to return to Tyrone immediately after the service.

Mrs. James Spicher, of Cresson, Mrs. Emma Hoffman, of Derry, and Mrs. George W. Ishler, of Tusseyville, were the children of Mrs. Frances Colyer, who attended her funeral on Friday. Mrs. Probert, of Derry, was unable to be present on account of a babe so young to be taken on such a long journey.

The estate of Chambers O. Templeton, former state senator in the Blair and Huntingdon district, was settled up in court at Hollidaysburg. His creditors were mainly trusting clients, who gave him \$108,000 to purchase fraudulent and bogus mortgages. They will receive two cents on the dollar. Templeton is now in the western penitentiary.

A week or two ago mention was made of the fact that Geo. P. Thomas, of Nittany Mountain, was looking about for a farm with a view of purchasing it. From the Howard Hustler it is learned that he bought the A. G. Confer farm in the ridges in the vicinity of Howard. Mr. Thomas' Nittany Mountain farm is included in the penitentiary site.

From the Gazette it is learned that C. Y. Wagner, the miller, is one of the men who believes with all his heart in improved and modern methods, as was illustrated when he recently purchased a twenty horse-power traction gasoline engine, gang plows and other machinery in order to conduct his farm in Benner township. He expects to do his plowing, cut grain, haul it and hay to his barn, as well as do all other heavy work with the engine and improved machinery, thus introducing into Centre county the methods typical to the greatest farm of the west.

The following is taken from the Orangeville (Illinois) Courier, and refers to sons of Mrs. S. R. Kamp, of Lock Haven, who is now with them in Belvidere: Rufus Lee moved to Belvidere where he and his brother, John Camp, have opened a grocery store. Mr. Lee has been a resident of this vicinity for a number of years. About twelve years ago he came west from his home at Lock Haven, Pa., and since that time has resided here. He is a young man of good character, honest and reliable in every way. Mr. Camp is a stranger to us, but those who know him speak of him in the highest terms. That the new firm will make a success of the business is assured.