



SANE VIEW OF A LOCAL PROBLEM.

A New York State Business Man Interested Locally Gives Some Advice to Citizen Taxpayers and their Representatives.

Editor of the Reporter

I want the people of Centre Hall to know that I have not lost my interest in my old home town. In addition to the sentimental ties and past civic obligations which bind me to Centre Hall, I have a material interest as a taxpayer in the right determination of public questions.

Before entering into the merits of the question, let me express my appreciation of the broad-minded attitude of the Reporter relative to the proposition to grant a perpetual franchise to a lighting corporation which is local in name only.

These exclusive franchises were followed by grave abuses in the midst of which the people were powerless because business interests and court decisions preserved these privileges even at the expense of the whole community.

Then as the people grew in intelligence, the corporate promoters continued to secure such exclusive privileges in given instances by telling the people that without such a grant it would be impossible to induce capitalists to invest.

I am now a resident of Jamestown, New York; this city has pointed the way to many other of the smaller communities of the nation.

Jamestown owns a water plant; and after decreasing rates twenty-five percent, the revenue of the system is paying for it without levying a dollar in taxes.

The home telephone company entered this city under a twenty year franchise with restrictions as to rates; and that corporation has thrived, as it should do, without imposing upon the local public.

The Jamestown city charter contains an express proviso that no public plant shall be sold to a private corporation; that no perpetual franchise shall be granted; and that in any event the common council shall not grant a new franchise, or renew an existing corporate privilege, without a formal election of the taxpayers.

Now I am not discussing the details of the proposition presented to the people of Centre Hall; nor am I urging my former fellow townsmen to enter upon a public ownership program.

But I do want to insist and urge that the grant of a perpetual franchise will free the corporation receiving it from the control of the people who must accept such service as it offers, and pay such rates as it fixes. That kind of a grant is the acme of poor business, unwise politics and short sighted civic planning.

This is a matter which concerns the people and their children. I want to urge the people to insist that their representatives grant nothing but a limited franchise with the right reserved to check monopolistic practices and extortionate rates.

Yours truly J. B. FLISHER.

Jamestown, N. Y., May 15, 1912.

Prepared to Teach Instrumental Music.

The undersigned, who just graduated from the Conservatory of Music connected with the Susquehanna University, is prepared to give instructions on organ and piano, either at his home or the home of the pupils. Terms reasonable, and satisfaction guaranteed. Write or call over the Bell phone.

NEEDSON KELLER, Linden Hall, Pa.

Peightal's Waxed Bread.

Peightal's bread, wrapped in waxed paper, always fresh and clean; in five and ten-cent loaves, sold only by us. A fresh supply always on hand.

JOHN M. COLDRON.

Laundry will go out from this office Wednesday, June 20th.

PLANING MILL BURNED.

Zettle Brothers' Plant Destroyed Thursday Night—Loss Fully \$3500—No Insurance—Sheds and Finished Lumber Saved.

The Centre Hall Planing Mill purchased early in the spring from A. P. Lutz & Son, was totally destroyed by fire on Thursday night. The loss is fully \$3500. No insurance. The fire originated in the engine room, and is supposed to have been started by a spark from the engine.

Although their loss is total, the Zettle Brothers have already made preparations to rebuild. Since they have had charge of the mill a great deal of work has been done, and many orders were booked, and a large amount of prospective work in eight. The new firm was much pleased with their business, and had every assurance of having all the business they could do.

The fire was first discovered by merchant George O. Benner, who saw a light in the mill from his home near by, and at once he suspected it was fire out of control. He hurried to the scene, and his expectations were proven, the alarm of fire having been given in advance. The flames were then confined to the engine room, but it was only a few minutes until every foot of the interior was a mass of flames.

The hose were attached to a convenient fire plug and streams played on the dwelling house of William Keller and the two large sheds, filled with finished lumber, to the rear of the planing mill proper. No damage was done to either of these, but it is solely due to the timely arrival of the "boys with the hose."

There was little or no wind on Thursday night. After the roof fell, the flames leaped high into the air, the sky was lighted up beautifully, and Nittany mountain never looked prettier at night.

The whistle on the Weber mill summoned many country people from their beds to windows, and on discovering the fire they made an effort to reach it quickly. Outside of those who handled the hose there was little to do for the hundreds of others who had gathered except to watch the flames, and this they did.

The planing mill was equipped with a large number of machines of various kinds, the principal ones being a planer, molding, tenoning, mortising machines, shaper, sander, turning lathe, panel raiser, beveling machines, rip, cutoff, band saws and re-saw.

The engine is irrepairable, but the boiler is thought to be in good condition. There was also a fully equipped saw mill to the east side of the plant, as well as a modern cider press. Both were burned.

A number of customers had from one to several thousand feet of lumber at the plant, others finished material, all of which is a total loss.

Transfer of Real Estate.

Lizzie Sobie to the Budinger Co., tract of land in Snow Shoe twp. \$710.

Jennie L. Welis et al to Albert L. Peters et al, tract of land in Union twp. \$350.

Charles A. Kunes et al to H. O. Pletcher, tract of land in Liberty twp. \$425.

Laurelton Lumber Co. to W. E. Mining et al, tract of land in Miles twp. \$498.48.

Wm. L. Foster et al to Wm. H. & J. A. Noll, tract of land in State College. \$330.

West Brush Valley

The hay and wheat crops are promising ones through here.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bartley spent Sunday with the latter's parents, J. W. Beck.

Miss Della Spayd, who is working at State College, spent Sunday under the parental roof.

Some of our farmers are busily engaged in working on the road while others are working corn.

Miss Annie Rachau, who is working in Nittany Valley, is spending several days among friends and relatives.

Quite a number of our young people spent the evening at William Crater's, where they were entertained by phonograph music.

On account of inclement weather the children's service in the Yearick United Evangelical church was postponed until next Sunday evening.

DEER AND WILD TUKEYS

Frighten Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sprow on Nittany Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sprow, who live west of Centre Hall, have had two unusual experiences within the recent past. A young deer came bounding over the fields to within a few rods of their dwelling house, and came with such speed that the owners stepped aside to give it room to pass by. A few days later, a wild turkey hen with several of her brood, almost landed on Mr. Sprow as he was picking strawberries. The old bird was quite large, and came sailing in a direct line for the berry-picker, but darted to one side as it approached him. One of the brood almost landed on Mr. Sprow's shoulder. It fell to the ground exhausted, and was picked up by him, and after a brief captivity was again liberated. The birds really frightened Mr. Sprow, coming with such speed and so near to him that he could easily hear the engines working. He believes the birds were after his big strawberries, but it is more than likely that they read the good natured disposition imprinted on his face, and felt they would be safe anywhere where Mr. Sprow was the monarch.

LOCALS.

Wesley Bloom, of Williamsport, is a guest at the home of Dr. J. R. G. Allison, in Centre Hall, and will remain for a month.

There was some satisfaction in tackling the planing mill fire—the reservoir was full to the brim and hose in good condition.

William B. Fiedler and a force of workmen under him are constructing the addition to the residence of W. Gross Mingle, in Centre Hall.

Just one inch of rain fell between Saturday morning and Monday noon. The precipitation was so gradual that the earth took it up readily.

H. E. Duck is the last Millheim resident to become the owner of an automobile, having purchased a Ford from H. C. Breon & Company.

Arthur C. Dale, who just graduated from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, has taken up the reading of law with his father, Clement Dale, in Bellefonte.

Miss Flo R. Duck, who formerly was the teacher of the Grammar grade in the Centre Hall schools, but during the past few years has been teaching school in St. Louis, is now in New York.

The town of Clearfield is in line for congratulations upon having secured the location there of a cut glass works. The new industry was secured through the efforts of the Clearfield chamber of commerce.

Dr. Hardenberg, of Millheim, devotes his spare time to growing poultry. He now has several hundred young chicks that are doing their best to make a record next winter, when eggs will be a luxury.

John Lucas, Milford Luse, Lawrence Runkle, Samuel Gross, Thomas Palmer and Blaine Palmer are the force of carpenters who are building a barn at Potters Mills for Edward Allison to take the place of the one destroyed by fire.

If the Philadelphia Journal can be believed that thriving Centre county borough has some mighty wicked chaps in it, for the paper mentions that the cemetery association authorities complain that out flowers and rare plants are stolen from graves.

F. J. Tibbitts, Centre Hall; Henry Roseman Tusseyville, and S. M. Campbell, Millheim, all undertakers, attended the annual session of the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors' Association held at Pittsburgh last week. The next meeting of the body will be in Harrisburg, next June.

Guy W. Jacobs came up from Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was installing some machinery for the York firm that employs him. He came Saturday, and the latter part of this week will go to Pittsburgh where he will spend several months in erecting a refrigerating machine in the Westinghouse Electric Company.

Charles H. Hambly, a jeweler of Philadelphia, prior to the removal of his store from 19th South Eighth street to 929 Chestnut street, offered a special reduction on a large variety of jewelry kept in a first class store up to last Saturday. Mr. Hambly is also a dealer in diamonds, and his removal to Chestnut street indicates that his business is prospering.

Forester Harry T. Mueller informs the Reporter that it is the intention to rebuild the first dam on the branch of Fishing Creek, two miles east of State's improvements on Nittany Mountain. It will be recalled that this dam was dynamited several years ago after the state had repaired it. The news of its reconstruction will be received with pleasure by the fishermen.

LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Reporter Subscribers' Correspondent Column—Interesting Communications.

Editor Reporter:

It was with genuine sorrow that I read in this week's Reporter of the death of Hon. Fred Kurtz. It recalled to my mind that the first line of type I ever set was in the Reporter office under Mr. Kurtz. At that time I was attending school in Centre Hall and frequented the office almost daily and became impressed with the idea that I would like to be a printer and editor. I mentioned the matter to Mr. Kurtz and he suggested that in my spare moments I come into his office and learn to set type. This I did and my aptitude soon put me where I could do fairly well at the case. After Normal school closed I worked regularly in the office until my term of school began in the Manor district. At Mr. Kurtz's suggestion I became a correspondent for the Reporter during my term of school. Frequently he complimented me on my originality in the matter of writing up news and would tell me that I should essay in newspaper work for the reason that I possessed adaptability. It may have seemed that way to him, but often it seemed to me that I also possessed a stock of stupidity.

At times I had many of the young people very indignant at me because I had a crude way of writing news that they could not appreciate. But I always aimed to tell the truth about the young people who would go to public places and not demean themselves becomingly. Some of them went personally to Mr. Kurtz and complained but he in some way mollified them. He merely cautioned me not to make misstatements in my articles and encouraged me to continue writing, which I did and have never regretted it. In the month of September, 1874, I concluded to go west and engage in newspaper work. Before finally starting I asked Mr. Kurtz for a recommendation, I still have it and reproduce it as it was originally written, as follows:

CENTRE HALL, Pa., Sept. 5th, 1874.

This is to certify that I have known Mr. E. S. Garver for the past three years and can cheerfully recommend him as an honest, sober and industrious young man. He has a good education and is a promising writer, having written almost continuously for the Reporter since our acquaintance. In politics he is an uncompromising Democrat, religiously he entertains broad and liberal views. I unhesitatingly recommend him to the confidence of the people among whom he intends to locate.

FRED KURTZ, Ed. Reporter.

I have always prized the foregoing recommendation because it marked the beginning of my career in the affairs of the world. I attribute part of the success that has come to me to the kindly advice which Mr. Kurtz gave me when I was on the threshold of manhood's estate. He was a veteran newspaper writer and remained in the harness because he loved the work. But finally the rusty and blunted pen dropped from his nerveless grasp and he fell asleep amidst the hum of the presses that turned out to the world his masterly productions. Peace to his ashes.

E. S. GARVER.

[Mr. Garver is now the senior editor of the Worth County Times, in Grant City, Missouri, and has held a number of political positions of importance both by election and appointment.—Ed.]

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., June 12, 1912.

Dear Editor Reporter:

Yours duly received and noted. I will comply with suggestion of your note and enclose \$2.00. Then I beg to suggest that at this particular time and at all times your paper urge the people to be interested in better social and industrial conditions. And I think when you get the people to investigate and compare the different governmental systems and theories, they will have no difficulty in arriving at the just conclusion that the Socialist party has the only theory under which Christianity, or the Kingdom of Heaven can flourish.

Now I think it is due from the great educators, the newspapers, to interest the people, their readers, in the problems of such vital importance to the whole people. I will enclose a card in which the subject is amply treated and I will send you a few papers under separate cover.

Yours respectfully PHIL J. AUMAN.

Clair A. Horner, a son of George Horner, of near Centre Hall, who is located near Freeport, Illinois, and is engaged in farming, writes the Reporter, under date of 15th inst., thus: The Reporter reaches me regularly every Saturday, and affords me much pleasure in reading the happenings

[Continued at foot of next column.]

DEATHS.

Mrs. Nancy Meiss, one of the most aged ladies in Potter township, died at the home of her son, George R. Meiss, at Colyer, on Monday morning. She had been in her usual health, having eaten a hearty supper on Sunday, but at about eight o'clock she became ill, and gradually grew worse until the end came on the morning following. She began breaking down last winter, yet at times since then she appeared to be in good physical condition for one of her advanced age. Interment was made Wednesday morning, in Zion cemetery, Rev. S. A. Snyder, pastor of the United Evangelical church, being the officiating minister.

Mrs. Meiss was the widow of Jacob Meiss, deceased and with her husband lived in various sections in Potter township, and for thirty years occupied the John Stoner farm, near Tusseyville, which home they owned, and where Mr. Meiss died eighteen years ago. She was born in Georges Valley, on the George Gentzel farm, and was eighty-seven years old on December 18th, last. She was the daughter of George Rishel, and was the last survivor of that family, all of whom died at an advanced age.

Mrs. Meiss became a member of the United Evangelical church in her youth, and was always an active member as long as age was not a barrier to perform services, and remained faithful to her vows until the end. She was of kindly disposition and had many friends among old and young. She was the mother of six children, four of whom survive, and they are these: Mrs. Mary Bitner, Pottery Mills; George R. Colyer; William, Joliet, Illinois; Jacob, Montreal, Canada. There also survive eighteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

William E. Crust died at his home near Pleasant Gap on Friday morning. He had been in delicate health for more than a year, having been a sufferer from tuberculosis, but it was only during the last few months that he was confined to his home. He was a farmer by occupation, and for many years lived on a farm near where he died. Interment was made on Sunday at Meyer's cemetery, the officiating ministers having been Rev. From and Rev. Shuey, of the Methodist denomination. He is survived by a wife, nee Miss Mary A. Martin, and these three children: Charles T., James Franklin and Clarence W. Two brothers and four sisters also survive. They are: Reuben, State College; Thomas L., Philipsburg; Mrs. William Lutz, Bellefonte; Mrs. John Reed, Rock Springs; Mrs. Amelia Hoover, Altoona; Mrs. Eva Cori, Pleasant Gap.

Mrs. Laura Maud Snively died Sunday evening at the home of Clarence Stover, near Spring Mills, of typhoid fever, aged thirty years, ten months and seventeen days. She leaves to survive a mother, one sister and the following brothers: Elmer W. Smith, at home; A. D. Smith and L. P. Smith, of Spring Mills, and William H. Smith, of Mackeyville. Deceased was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith, of Spring Mills. She was a kind-hearted woman and was loved by one and all. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Price, and interment was made in the Heckman cemetery.

Meta, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Meyer, of Coburn, died of lung fever, aged seven years. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. D. Donat, and interment was made at Aaronsburg.

Auditor General Contest Begins.

A bill in equity was filed in the Dauphin county court to test the validity of nominations made for auditor general this year by the Republicans, Democrats, and Socialists, it being contended that under the constitutional amendments of 1909 no election for auditor general can be held until 1914. The court fixed next Tuesday for a hearing.

It is now well known that not more than one case of rheumatism in ten requires any internal treatment whatever. All that is needed is a free application of Chamberlain's Liniment and massaging the parts at each application. Try it and see how quickly it will relieve the pain and soreness. Sold by all dealers.

[Continued from Previous Column.]

about my old home, which I would not learn to know otherwise. The oats and rye fields look good at this time, but wheat is a failure. Hay will also be scarce again this year. Farmers are busy cultivating corn, the plants being from four to six inches high. The weather is fine, but we ought to have rain soon, especially to help the corn and potatoes.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Saturday morning rain set in.

State College has a speed limit for automobiles of ten miles an hour.

Undertaker F. J. Tibbitts had charge of a funeral last week at Axe Mann.

Remember that Saturday is the day set for the telephone picnic at Rhoneymede.

The West Susquehanna Classes of the Reformed church, met in Centre Hall yesterday (Wednesday).

Lewisburg has organized a "Play Ground Association," and as a result Lewisburg's children have a play ground of five acres.

The Barner and Engler families held a reunion yesterday (Wednesday) near the original Barner homestead, one mile north of Loganton.

The members of the Zsigler families throughout the county will hold their annual family reunion at the Grange Park, Centre Hall, on Saturday.

Register J. Frank Smith and son Calvin were in town on Saturday. The latter was engaged to pitch for the home team, but the game was postponed on account of the rain.

Miss Mae Gibbs, accompanied by her little niece, Mary Reesman, of Thoroughfare, New Jersey, are at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Reesman, in Centre Hall. They will stay for a few weeks.

The fact that Millin county butchers are advocating the passing of a law which will prohibit the slaughtering of cattle until they are two years or over of age indicates they are in league with the dentists.

The Department of Health is making an appeal to the people to observe the Fourth in a safe and sane manner. The department, however, is taking the precaution to send to the distributing stations large supplies of antitoxin.

C. F. Foster, one of the orchard demonstrators under Prof. Surface, was in Centre Hall on Saturday. He came here to give instructions how the orchard in which it is intended to give public demonstrations during the Grange Encampment and Fair should be prepared. The rain interfered with the work.

Miss Henrietta McGirk, while visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dale, of near Boalsburg, became seriously ill. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McGirk, of Altoona, were summoned to their daughter's bedside. The young lady had been attending commencement at State College.

Zettle Brothers, proprietors of the Centre Hall planing mill, advertise in this issue. While their plant was burned, they have on hand and in transit a large quantity of building material. Read their advertisement, and if you are in need of anything in their line, they will greatly appreciate your trade at this particular time.

Mrs. Maggie Smith, of Centre Hall, on Sunday attained her eightieth birthday. She is unusually active, and in good spirits. Her children were at the old home, and none of them enjoyed the day more than the mother. Mrs. George Torrence, of Punxsutawney, a niece, Mrs. Witmer Smith and Mrs. Clyde Smith, were also present.

This good news about the Burnham works appeared in the Lewistown Democrat and Sentinel: Quite a number of the departments at the Standard are working double turn. The company has enough orders to keep the plant busy for the next nine months and it is employing all the men to be found. The regular weekly pay today was one of the largest in the history of the plant.

A Reedsville correspondent to the Democrat and Sentinel, writes thus: Dr. L. E. Kidder, wife and daughter, of Boalsburg, J. Finn Stover, of New Derry, and Irvin Stover, of Philadelphia, composed an automobile party that spent last evening with H. A. Stover and family, on their return from a touring trip by way of Washington, Philadelphia and other eastern cities. The party left here last evening at 8:30 o'clock for Boalsburg.

These three persons appeared in last week's issue of the Millheim Journal: Miss Jennie Reifsnnyder, accompanied by her little niece, Bernadine Reifsnnyder, is visiting friends at Williamsport and Muncy this week. . . Mr. and Mrs. William Kreamer will leave this (Thursday) morning on a ten-day sight-seeing trip to Philadelphia and Atlantic City. . . Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Boob and three children, of near Millinburg, and Mr. and Mrs. Strobesker, of Milton, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Hoop on Sunday.