



THE BOROUGH FINANCES.

Credits to Amount of \$2673.32 of which \$2306.84 is cash—the Surplus, What to Do With It.

The borough auditors publish their report in this issue, and present to the taxpayers a comparatively clear statement of the finances in various departments of the borough. The disposition of the surplus is a question now being discussed, and the Reporter in this article gives its opinion on this subject after commenting on the expenditures of the borough.

There were collected for all purposes on 1912 duplicates \$2622.29, and there was expended for all purposes during the same period \$1687.36, or \$934.93 less than the sum collected. In this total item of expense is included \$500 for one bond canceled, making the ordinary running expenses of the borough for the year but \$1287.36.

The total credit to the borough is made up of \$2306.84 cash in the hands of the treasurer, and \$365.48 in taxes due on duplicates of 1911 and 1912, all of which is collectable.

The total indebtedness of the borough is \$5600, bonds bearing interest at four per cent held by several individuals. If the credits—cash and taxes—were deducted from the liabilities there would remain but \$2925 indebtedness. This is a fine showing.

The light account is \$352.15 for the year, and the water out \$105. Included in the water account is an item of \$70 rental for water right and superintending water plant. The remainder was nearly all expended on account of a freeze-up on the mountain pipe lines. The poor department expended \$186, most of which went to the Danville hospital to maintain Angeline Tobias.

The salaries paid officers are very moderate, \$35 for secretary and \$25 for treasurer, yet the pay is ample and could justifiably be reduced. In many boroughs the council arranges to have the funds hauled without expense, and no doubt the local council could do so if it made the effort. The labors of the secretary scarcely warrant the payment of almost \$3.00 for each meeting. The Reporter hopes that the suggestions made in this paragraph will be received in the spirit in which they are given. The whole of this expenditure of \$60 annually could easily be wiped out.

It must be admitted that \$1287.36 is a very small amount for running expenses, but economy must not be judged by the amount of dollars spent, but rather on the basis of the returns received for the money expended. There were no improvements of any character made during the year, except a bit of concreting, by the borough authorities. This item is but \$36.80, and is found in the road account. The balance, \$167.94, except a small fraction expended for opening ditches and repairs on Hoffer street, was a total waste and loss.

DISPOSITION OF CASH.

To what purpose could the \$2306.84 cash in the treasury be best applied? What could be done with it that the best interests of the taxpayers would be served? Apply it to roads, the Reporter recommends.

On first thought some of those most deeply interested will come to the conclusion that this fund should be cut into two the bonded indebtedness. Others may think improvement of the school property. The latter question must be eliminated, for the school fund is one entirely separate from any funds controlled by the town council. Reduction of the borough debt and application to road improvement are therefore the only two suggested dispositions of this surplus.

Let us talk over the matter of debt. The total indebtedness is but \$5600. The present tax-payers have already paid a large portion—a too large proportion—if the one permanent public improvement, namely, the borough water plant. With all the costly blunders made in the general management of the finances and construction of this plant, the tax-payer today has a plant that is proving a good investment, and one without which we could not get along. But why should the present generation pay all of the burden? The application of correct business methods will warrant postponing the payment of this indebtedness until a future date, and so the council will be wise in doing.

With the disposition of the indebtedness question, the improvement of the road remains alone. The \$2306.84 now on hand in ready cash, together with the surplus that can be accumulated during the next year will make a total of say \$3000, and this sum wisely applied ought to put Main street from the foot of the mountain to the southern boundary of the borough in good order.

We have no thought here of saying just how this road should be built, although there may be presented plans in the future once road improvement is decided upon. Past experience will lead us over a few pitfalls. First, sand stones, then gravel.

A SOURCE OF WEALTH.

The Governor, Alleviate the Interests of the Commonwealth, Recommends a Liberal Appropriation to the School of Agriculture.

Governor Tener, in his message to the legislature, said:

"The marked increase of interest in agricultural pursuits in the Commonwealth within the past decade is largely the result of an awakening of the people to the fact that the cultivation of the soil is a permanent and dependable source of wealth. In view of the fact that modern and scientific methods of cultivation are now essential, and that the day of general farming is passing, no agency should be omitted or neglected which would increase the productive capacity of the soil. The agricultural experiment station of the Pennsylvania State college should be liberally supported, and the results of its investigations should be carried direct to the rural communities through every possible channel. The necessity for scientific farm managers has become so urgent that liberal appropriations should be placed at the disposal of the school of agriculture of the college to train a sufficient number of young men to meet the demand."

A Growing Organization.

The local W. C. T. U. is one of the growing organizations in this place. It is not only growing in membership, but is doing things, and doing them in the interest of the general public. Up to the present time the organization has been meeting at the homes of the various members, but at their Saturday afternoon meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. Andrew Zettie, arrangements were made to lease a room in the Reporter's new building as a place for their regular gatherings.

The room referred to is on the second floor and has a frontage of twenty-four feet, and extends back thirty-two feet. It is the intention to make this not only the home of the W. C. T. U., but the home of the L. T. L. and Y. P. B., both of which societies has enlisted in its membership many of the children and young people from the best homes in the community.

As their finances warrant the W. C. T. U. home will be furnished in a comfortable way, and supplied with literature, books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, etc. The organization is looking forward to a time when the home can be open at all times, and presided over by some suitable person, affording the young people the benefits of a reading room as well as a place to spend a portion of the day or evening in social intercourse.

Local Option Measures.

Local option legislation, with the units made up first of cities and secondly of the remainder of a county outside the city, is the bill distinctly favored by the headquarters committee of the state Anti-Saloon League, which met there recently, but the final decision was left by the committee to the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Carroll state superintendent.

Doctor Carroll will make no decision before consulting with the local option members of the legislature at a meeting held here as the legislature re-assembles after the recess.

The league has three classes of local option under consideration. One is that in which the township, the borough and the ward of that city are the unit. Another is that in which the entire county is the unit. The third is the county-city bill, which is favored by the headquarters committee. In that "city" would mean a municipality of more than 10,000 population.

The Boyd bill of the last session was a township, borough, city, ward bill.

Electric Companies Merged.

The state department approved the merging of the Centre and Clearfield County Electric Light and Power Companies under the name of State-Centre Electric Company. This is the company that purchased the State College Electric light plant and is dealing for a similar plant in Bellefonte.

The newspaper offers the medium of communicating with this man in the county. Tell him what you have. He has a thousand wants. He will buy somewhere. It costs the catalog houses thousands of dollars to place a catalog in his hands and in many instances he has no invitation to buy elsewhere. Through the newspaper you can reach him for a fraction of the cost to the mail order house, and that you can make it pay is as obvious as the success of the mail order firm.

In Williamsport there must be ample reason before taxes are exonerated. Last week a delinquent was given over to the sheriff for keeping. The taxes were but \$2.25.

LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

P. P. Long, Formerly of Spring Mills, Tells of Journey Through West.

The following is reprinted from one of the Uniontown dailies and refers to a former resident of Spring Mills.

After a trip of nearly ten weeks through the far west P. P. Long arrived in Uniontown Wednesday morning in time to eat Christmas dinner with his family. His trip proved very beneficial and instructive and he considers it well worth the time and the money.

The itinerary of Mr. Long took him through 21 states and covered about 11,000 miles. He purchased a ticket at Columbus, Ohio, good for nine months with privilege of stopping at any flag station. The route started at Columbus, covered 24 different roads and brought him back to Columbus. He started from Chicago on October 23 and traveled after that with stops from one to three days at different places.

During the entire time he was away Mr. Long attended M. E. church services and Epworth League every Sunday except the Sunday he was in Santa Barbara, Cal., when he went to the Christian church of which Rev. J. Walter arper is pastor, but there were union revival services and Rev. Carpenter did not preach that day. While away Mr. Long sent 400 or more post cards to Uniontown friends, including every member of the Ingles Sunday school class.

Mr. Long retired from the mercantile business last June after a very successful career of nine years in Uniontown and since then he has traveled extensively and has not spent three Sundays in any one state except just three weeks at home last summer. Through July and August he and his family were on an automobile trip through Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. But now Mr. Long expects to remain at home for some time.

On his trip through the west Mr. Long was merely seeking pleasure and instruction and was not looking for anything to buy and not selling goods for any firm. He was much pleased with many things, but gives his impressions as follows:

"You can say that Uniontown is good enough for me. Anyone who thinks of investing in the west or southwest had better go there and live for one year and learn all the advantages and disadvantages before they buy. But I advise anyone who can make a good living in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio or Illinois to stay where they are. I saw many people coming back east, especially from Texas and Oklahoma.

"But I'd like to take my family out to California for one winter and let them see the country. I like the California climate much better than the Gulf climate, but the weather was good all the way till I reached Kansas City.

"They have an old saying in California that we from the east pay \$500 for the weather and \$5.00 for the lot, and they talk now of putting a meter on each man's nose to make him pay for the air he breathes.

"Such a trip as I took makes a man appreciate Pennsylvania more. And when it comes to eastern people investing in southern or western land they have never seen they had better be careful. There are enough people there and enough capital so that if there is a good thing to be had they'll take care of it themselves. At Point Bolivar peninsula in Texas I tried to see some lots in which some of my Ohio friends were interested, but when I attempted to reach them I found they were under water."

Starting from Chicago Mr. Long went to Belvidere, Ill., and visited an uncle. He then saw a cousin at Dakota, Ill., made a stop at Freeport and then went on down the C. B. & Q. railroad to Burlington, Iowa, and then on to Omaha, Neb. At Hastings, Neb., he was met by a friend and taken on an automobile trip of 60 miles over nice level country where they did not use a brake the entire distance.

Stops were also made at Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo. Then the route was over the Denver & Rio Grande to Salt Lake City, then to Ogden and up north through Idaho over the Oregon and Washington Short Line to Pocatello, then Walla Walla, Wash., and on to Spokane.

Between Spokane and Seattle Mr. Long passed through the Yakima valley, the great apple country. There are solid strips 10 and 12 miles long, all in apples, but the industry is probably overdone. The choice fruit is packed in boxes and shipped east, but millions of bushels go to waste. Many coal cars are filled with apples and hauled to make cider, jelly, etc.

The freight is very high on apples shipped east. Choice apples sell in the Yakima valley at 75c to 90c a box, but by the time they reach New York they are \$2.50 to \$3.00. When the Panama canal is completed the price

will probably be lower and freight rates will take a drop. Many of the articles sold in the Woolworth stores in the east at 10c are listed at 15c at Woolworth stores in Denver and west of there on account of the freight.

At Seattle Mr. Long went through the Navy Yards and then through the timber district and Tacoma down to Portland, Ore., which he considers the coming city of the Pacific coast. He then traveled to Roseburg, Oreg., crossed Mount Shasta to the town of Shasta, then to Sacramento and on to San Francisco.

Great preparations are being made at Frisco for the Exposition of 1915. Operations were started six months or more ago and they are working as fast as they can. The Exposition grounds consist of 600 acres and include one of the parks and part of the city. They are now filling in along the water and putting in pipes and sewers. A couple of the California state buildings are pretty well done.

Stops were made at San Jose, Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Barbara, where he saw Rev. J. Walter Carpenter who is enjoying good health and has gained 30 pounds in weight. Mr. Long went on to Los Angeles and San Diego and then spent three days in Riverside, where he was taken around by N. P. Cooper.

At Yuma, Ariz., Mr. Long saw the Cyphon dam, an improvement which cost \$6,000,000 and turned two desert valleys into rich, productive land. His next stop was at El Paso, Texas. On the day he arrived there was a battle across the border. Soldiers were riding around on horses and things looked warlike.

On the homeward journey Mr. Long made stops at Houston, Galveston, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, St. Louis and Cincinnati. Everywhere he went he met Ohio and Pennsylvania people, many of them from Uniontown.

As was suggested by an item in the Reporter, I looked at the label on the issue forwarded to me, and noticed it needed my attention. You will find one dollar enclosed to advance my subscription. We could scarcely do without the Reporter, for without it we would not learn of the happenings in and about our old home in Centre county. Aside from all other information, the death column (although the news always comes with sadness) alone is ample return for the subscription price. Last week two former associates were laid to rest—they were Mrs. William B. Krape and William H. Lee.

It was just thirty-four years ago at Christmas time since we came to Illinois, and the past Christmas and New Year's day were the nicest since our coming here.

I want to tell you something about the crops. Corn was extra good in some sections, but in others the grub worms ate much of it. For instance some twenty-acre fields in the vicinity of Dakota did not yield as much as a hundred bushels.

The prices on farm products run about as follows: Oats, 25c to 29c; corn, 35c to 42c; rye, 25c; barley, 35c to 55c; baled hay, \$17.00; eggs, 30c; potatoes, 50c; hogs, \$7.00 per cwt; cattle, \$5.00 per cwt. From these quotations it will be seen that farmers have nothing to complain of.

Real estate, including farms, has advanced greatly in Illinois. Land that sold for \$40 and \$50 per acre only a short time ago is now selling for \$150 to \$175 per acre, and some farms are sold as high as \$200 per acre. Cash rentals have also advanced. This style of tenantry is not in vogue in your section, but quite common here, and as much as \$9.00 per acre is paid. This leads me to say again, that we have never regretted locating here when we came west, because we believe it is as good as any section of country to be found, not excluding our native county of Centre in the Keystone State.

We extend a most hearty invitation to our many friends in Penna Valley to pay us a visit, and promise them to return the many kindnesses shown us on the three visits made to them since locating here. Wishing you all a most prosperous year in all lines, I remain,

Very Truly,
J. HENRY JORDON.
Orangeville, Illinois.

From Troutville, Clearfield county, Rev. A. A. Black, for many years pastor of the Boalsburg Reformed church, writes thus:

I enclose one dollar to pay for the Reporter this year. I was pained and shocked to hear of the death of our mutual friend, William B. Mingle. A good man has gone the way of the earth.

We are now comfortably settled in a good parsonage, and the work is moving along quite satisfactorily.

A teachers' local institute was held in Millheim on Saturday.

EARLY EASTER.

The Feast Day Sets a Record This Year—Has Not Fallen so Early in the Month Since the Year 1818.

Easter will fall on March 23 in the year 1913. Not since 1818 has it arrived any earlier. Then it arrived on March 22. It will be the year 2000 when it comes so early again.

Easter comes very close to setting a record this year. It can never come earlier than March 22. The only time it did or could do this from the year 1801 to 2000 was in 1818. This was made possible by a full moon on March 21 and the day following being Sunday.

This coincidence does not occur more than once in a century and it is only then that the Feast of Ascension can occur in April, and then only on April 30. As Easter is the most important of all the movable feasts of the Christian church, it determines all the rest.

Hence next year Ash Wednesday comes on Feb. 5, Ascension Thursday, May 1, and Pentecost, May 11.

Sixty-seven years ago and 56 years ago Easter occurred on the same date as it does in 1913. The next year when Easter will pay an early visit will be in 1940, when it comes on March 24. In 1951 it arrives on March 25, in the year 1815 it fell upon March 25; also in the years 1825, 1837, 1883 and 1894. It will come again March 26 in 1967, 1978 and 1989.

The latest Easter of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was in 1859, when it fell on April 24, in 1848 and 1905 when it occurred on April 23.

Week of Prayer Service.

The weather conditions during last week could not well have been more unfavorable for a week of prayer, yet the attendance at all the services was very fair, and on several occasions the church was filled. The topics discussed as indicated in these columns last week were of a character to apply locally, and they were admirably handled. There was no attempt made to berate, yet many evils were pointed out, and invariably an adequate remedy was suggested. Centre Hall is undoubtedly better for having heard from earnest ministers these messages.

At each service an offering was lifted and the sum total was \$23.30. Deducting the expenses, \$3.00 for the programs, there remained \$20.30 to be forwarded to the American Bible Society, each of the congregations participating to share equally in the honor.

The offerings were made up of 1084 pieces of money: 810 pennies, 247 nickels, 260 dimes, and one quarter. The sum total looks rather respectable, but there were too many Indians to credit their giving to children. The large per cent of copper in these offerings indicates that there will be no difficulty in selecting other local questions needing attention.

Transfer of Real Estate.

William W. Schenck to Mary E. Schenck, tract of land in Howard boro. \$500.

Elwin Strunk et ux to Bertha A. Cox, tract of land in State College. \$400.

Joseph L. Womer et ux to Chas. D. Moore, tract of land in State College. \$350.

Thomas F. Kelly et ux to Kato Coal Co., tract of land in Centre Co. \$39000.

Hannah E. Huzard et bar to Elizabeth Stine, tract of land in Phillipsburg. \$40.

William Colyer et ux to Harry E. Fleisher, tract of land in Potter twp. \$50.

Harry E. Fleisher to William H. Lee, tract of land in Potter twp. \$50.

Wallace V. Strouce et ux to Mary A. Garver, tract of land in Spring twp. \$950.

Charles F. Shaw et ux to Guy C. Given, tract of land in State College. \$500.

Horace C. Dale et ux to Blanche E. Mosser, tract of land in College twp. \$3244.93.

Lehigh Valley Coal Co. to Edward Craft, tract of land in Snow Shoe boro. \$110.

John C. Franz et ux to A. Wallace Templeton, tract of land in Taylor twp. \$1.00.

M. C. Gephart et ux to John C. Franz, tract of land in Taylor twp. \$1.00.

Catherine Gorman admx to Thomas Reese et al, tract of land in Rush twp. \$750.

Joseph Reese et al to Thomas Reese, tract of land in Rush twp. \$1.00.

Jno. P. Condo, sheriff to Excelsior B. & L. Ass'n, tract of land in Boggs twp. \$500.

A bolt of lightning struck a barn near Northumberland a few days ago and burned it to the ground. The property belonged to Harry Schroeder.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The Centre County Pomona Grange meets in Grange Arcadia, Thursday of next week.

Mrs. Eliza Stover is in Altoona and will remain there during the winter with her son, Roy Stover.

W. D. Strunk offers for sale his house and lot on Hoffer street, in Centre Hall, and advertises the same in this issue.

Dr. H. F. Bitner advertises in this issue that he is prepared and qualified to do legal writing, such as deeds, mortgages, wills, leases, contracts, etc.

While at play at school, William Stover, sixteen years old, broke one of his arms below the elbow. The boy is a son of Charles J. Stover, of near Aaronsburg.

Tonight (Thursday) Ash Davis, the cartoonist, will be at Spring Mills as one of the entertainers in the lecture course conducted by the Spring Mills Grange and citizens.

Messrs. William E. Tate and Frank D. Osborn, farmers living west of Centre Hall, and who take a great interest in the local affairs of their locality, were callers at the Reporter on Friday.

J. F. Tibbette and daughter, as was previously announced, last week went to Maine, where they will make their future home, Mr. Tibbette having purchased an undertaking establishment at Bethel, in that state.

The Centre Hall borough financial statement appears in this issue. The figures show a nice balance to the credit of the treasurer, and in another column the Reporter expresses its opinion as to the disposition of these funds.

J. T. Zeigler was appointed janitor of the court house, and is now performing his duties as such. He is neat and trim in his personal appearance and no doubt will keep the temple of justice in a presentable condition at all times.

William M. Grove, of Spring Mills, was in Centre Hall on Monday. He is giving most of his time to surveying for either the state or private parties. Just now the lands of the late John Orndorf, of Woodward, are being surveyed for the heirs.

Mrs. Albert Spayd, of Hublersburg, was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Luse, of near Centre Hall, assisting in caring for Mrs. Luse, remaining there until word was received that her father, William Emerick, had suffered a paralytic stroke.

W. Gross Mingle is on the clerical force in the Penna Valley Bank. He has had considerable experience in the banking business, having been assistant cashier in that institution prior to the time he became interested in the Howard Creamery Corporation.

Next Tuesday evening, 21st instant, the Commonwealth Maie Quartette, will appear in Grange Arcadia. Please remember that no tickets will be on sale. Admission will only be given to course ticket holders and those who paid admission to the last concert.

Joseph A. Lumbard, stalwart Republican warhorse of Snyder county and editor of the Snyder County Tribune, has again proven his high standing in the good graces of Peasroo Republicans of the state by receiving an appointment as a proof reader on the Legislative Record.

The stork made recent visits to two homes that the Reporter frequents. One was that of Mr. and Mrs. Perry C. Luse, just west of Centre Hall, where a boy has taken up his abode, and the other that of Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus Sankey, and now they are fondling a bit of humanity of which they are very proud, because it is a girl.

Farmers and others who for a number of years have been disposing of their scrap iron to Solomon Columbus will regret to hear that the scrap iron dealer was seriously injured at his home at Millheim. He was in the act of unloading a threshing machine cylinder when the heavy weight crushed him to the ground, the spikes in the cylinder cutting his head and injuring one of his eyes to such an extent that he may lose the sight of it.

An accidental plunge into Elk Creek almost cost the life of F. M. Stephenson, who lives east of Millheim. Mr. Stephenson is partially paralyzed, and in crossing the bridge between Millheim and his home, stumbled and fell. His efforts to grasp the railing caused him to fall under it, and over the bridge into the water, ten or more feet below. But for the fact that Harrison Keen heard his distress cries and gave him immediate assistance, he undoubtedly would have drowned.