

# The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXXXVI.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1913.

NO. 13

## FOR EQUALIZATION OF TAXES.

Committee of State Grange Present Subject to the Senate and House.

We, farmers and citizens of Pennsylvania engaged in farming appointed a committee by the Pennsylvania State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, authorized to address your honorable body, herewith set forth certain discriminations and hardships imposed upon real estate, farm and home owners by the unequal and unjust tax laws of Pennsylvania which exact from real estate, appraised for taxation at \$4,633,547,665.00, a tax of \$77,348,540.00 annually, or an average of 16 3-4 mills on the dollar. While under authority of the same laws only \$24,556,963.00 are collected from personal and corporate property which is appraised for taxation at \$9,205,840,650.00, or an average tax of only 3 mills on the dollar.

In addition to the foregoing discrimination against real estate, cited, the counties are required to pay direct to the State \$10,039,375.28. (Report of Auditor General, page 2, 1910, latest Report available.)

It may be contended by some that real estate is undervalued for taxation. So is personal and corporate property and to much larger extent, as indicated by the statistical reports of the Commonwealth.

This subject was fully investigated by the Pennsylvania Tax Conference a few years ago. A complete record was made from the books of the County Commissioners of the assessed value of real estate for taxation and what lands actually sold for in the market which clearly indicated that real estate was assessed for fully seventy-five per cent of its selling price in the several counties of the State, while personal and corporate property, according to the statistical reports of the State and taxes collected, are not assessed at more than fifty per cent of their market value.

Take, as an example, the appraised market value of manufacturing plants in Pennsylvania which is stated at \$2,749,206,000.00. (Report of Secretary of Internal Affairs, 1910, Part 3, page 31), while its estimated appraised value for taxation is only \$1,655,833,703, and taxes paid \$1,200,230.00. (Report Auditor General, 1910, page 254); so that if there is any under-valuation of property for taxation it applies more forcibly to personal and corporate property than it does to real estate.

When the Legislature enacted laws changing the financial policy of the State, it exempted personal and corporate property from local taxation and made it taxable wholly for the support of the department of State and then in return made real estate taxable wholly for county, city and local governments.

When this policy was inaugurated by the state, the wisest statesmen did not foresee the enormous growth of the value of personal and corporate property, which now has reached the prodigious sum of over \$9,205,840,650.00.

In the race of development personal and corporate property has out-stripped real estate by over \$4,000,000,000.

During the same period the taxes on real estate have increased to \$77,348,550.00, while on personal and corporate property, the taxes have fallen behind real estate more than \$52,792,000.

We might cite numerous cases of how this discrimination affects the home owner, but we will give only a few illustrations of the situation:

Take two citizens of the Commonwealth; one buys a home for \$1,000, and is required to pay a tax of from \$20 to \$30 for the support of schools, roads, poor, etc. The other invests his \$1,000 in personal property, bonds and mortgages and is taxed \$4 for the support of the state and nothing for the home government, the benefit of which he enjoys equally with the other.

This unjust discrimination is authorized by the laws of Pennsylvania, a republic that counsels its people "To love mercy and do justice." We therefore, appeal to your Honorable Body to carefully investigate this complaint of the farmers, home owners and tenants of Pennsylvania.

## RECAPITULATION

How the tax accounts stand in Pennsylvania:

The aggregate appraised value of real estate in Pennsylvania is, \$4,633,547,665.

The taxes paid by real estate are, \$77,348,540.

Average rate of taxation on real estate, 16 3-4 mills.

Appraised value of personal and corporate property, \$9,205,840,650. Taxes paid on personal and corporate property, after deducting commissions, licenses and other miscellaneous sources of income, amounting to \$10,039,375.28, leaves a tax on personal and corporate property of only \$14,516,588.

Average rate of taxation on personal and corporate property, 3 mills.

How the accounts would stand if taxes were levied equitably.

If personal and corporate property were taxed at the same average mill rate so that if real estate would be

taxed under an equitable arrangement, crediting licenses, fees, commissions, etc., to personal property amounting to \$10,039,375.28, personal property would be required to pay \$69,043,804 instead of \$24,556,963, so that an average tax rate of 7 1-2 mills would provide all the revenues necessary to administer all the divisions of the state government.

How the account would stand with real estate.

If taxes were collected equitably real estate would be required to pay only \$34,751,607, instead of \$77,328,540, or a saving to the real estate owners annually of \$42,596,933.

Tax laws of Pennsylvania rob real estate owners.

The real estate owners are annually grossly robbed of \$42,596,933. Eighteen millions of this amount is directly extorted from the farmers and twenty-four millions from residents in cities and towns, whether they be owners or tenants. It is this policy of the State that has driven away from the farmers and rural communities, according to the last census report, over one hundred thousand people from twenty-two counties of the state.

To correct these discriminations against the farm and home owners of Pennsylvania, we respectfully insist that the state either assume a larger proportion of the cost of the local governments or give the local governments authority to tax personal and corporate property in each unit of government.

The state could, without any detriment to its own finances, remit to the counties the \$10,039,375 now collected by the state from the counties.

If there are not sufficient revenues for the State Government to do this, an additional tax of one mill could be placed on the capital stock of all corporations, loans, gross receipts, personal property, 8 mills on gross receipts of wholesale and retail mercantile business, mines, oil and gas wells which would raise the following amounts:

From the capital stock of corporations at 1 mill.....	\$ 1,697,696
From loans.....	557,966
From gross receipts.....	202,064
From tax on personal property.....	1,117,458
From mercantile business on gross receipts, 8 mills.....	626,289
From wholesale business on gross receipts, 8 mills.....	179,216
From coal, anthracite, gross receipts, 8 mills.....	2,698,440
From coal, bituminous, gross receipts, 8 mills.....	2,510,838
From natural gas, gross receipts, 8 mills.....	157,122
From petroleum, gross receipts, 8 mills.....	328,157
	\$ 11,151,146

This would raise \$11,151,146.00 additional revenues from subjects that are now under-taxed. Besides, there are numerous other subjects from which additional revenues might be derived, such as manufacturing companies. By such a revision of the policy of the State taxation, sufficient revenues could be raised to relieve real estate from the unjust burdens of taxation; by the State paying the minimum wages of the public school teachers for the minimum term; and by appropriating a minimum sum per mile to the counties and townships for roads purposes, equal to one hundred per cent. of the road taxes collected in each township, limiting the amount to \$25 per mile and relieve the counties and townships of the partnership business in constructing state roads. Let the state assume with the aid of the national government the entire construction of interstate and intercounty roads, and thus equalizing the burden of taxation between real estate, personal and corporate property.

If the state would adjust these inequalities and treat the agricultural class with justice and equity, farmers would be contented with their vocation and Pennsylvania would have more prosperous and happy agricultural communities which are the main-stay of the prosperity of the Commonwealth.

In proof of the correctness of the foregoing statements we herewith submit a tabulated statement, drawn from the official reports of the State Government.

Respectfully submitted,  
WM. T. CREAMY,  
LEONARD RHONE,  
I. FRANK CHANDLER,  
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG,  
CHARLES DILDINE,  
JEROME L. ALLMAN.

Legislative Com. Penna. State Grange.

Williamsport Commercial College.

Spring term begins April 15th. New classes in all studies. Start then and you will be ready for a position this fall. We have received one hundred and twenty-five calls for stenographers, bookkeepers and office help this year. Write for catalogue and free trial lessons in bookkeeping and shorthand. Business scholarship \$50.00. Shorthand scholarship \$40.00. We can increase your salary.

F. F. HEALEY, Proprietor.

## PUBLIC SALES.

All Live Stock Selling at Big Prices—Summing up of the Clerk's Sheets.

The sale season for 1913 is pretty well over, and the season has been in the seller's favor. There were many sales throughout the county, but Penns Valley fell short of its quota, while Brush Valley held its own, and Nittany Valley led off with a number far above the average for that section of the county.

The sales were all well attended, bidding was spirited, and the cash payments indicate that farmers, at least many of them, have ready money. Live stock of all kinds sold at high prices, cows selling higher than during any sale season for many years. Horses also continue to sell at over \$200 for sound animals that are young and heavy enough for all kinds of farm work. The 1350 to 1500 horses sold at over \$250, many of them reaching nearly \$300. These were the animals most desired, and sold the quickest.

The summing up of the clerk sheets indicate that the sum total of all sales in Centre county foot up many thousands of dollars. Below is a partial list of the large sales on the south side of Centre county, and the amount of personal property sold at each:

Charles W. Weaver, Centre Hall.....	\$ 4500
Raymond and Kidder, Linden Hill.....	4250
Jeff M. Heckman, Spring Mills.....	2500
J. C. Goodhart, Centre Hall.....	2784
S. W. Smith, Centre Hall.....	1947
Mrs. Amanda Bailey, Penn Hall.....	2800
Thomas J. Stover, Millheim.....	2256
Henry Mark, Millheim.....	1600
Chas. Wolf, Aaronsburg.....	1600
Ammon I. Shroyer, Rebersburg.....	3011

## Horner-Burchfield.

John Horner and Marian M. Burchfield were married at the bride home, near Tusseyville, Thursday evening, last week at 8 o'clock by Rev. W. A. McClellan, of Conyngham.

After the ceremony a wedding supper was served to about fifty relatives present. Some beautiful gifts were presented to the young couple and many good wishes expressed. Those present from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jacobs, of Boalsburg; and W. R. Burchfield and Miss Olivetta Gummo, Lock Haven, the latter being attendants of the bride and groom; Fred Colyer and Miss Lydia, Miss Esther Knarr, Millheim.

## Deaths of Centre Countians.

Mrs. Susan A. Nolan, of Curtin, aged eighty-three years.

Mrs. Mary Eta Fields, wife of John Fields, at Gatesburg, aged about sixty years.

Mrs. John Flack, at McCoy's Works, aged sixty-seven years.

## Will You Change Your Address?

If you are a subscriber to the Centre Reporter and have or intend changing your address by April 1st, please advise this office at once. Do not wait until you have made the change, but inform us in advance.

## Pine Grove Mills

Harry Sunday transacted business in Bellefonte on Saturday.

Simon Ward returned on Saturday from a business trip to Buffalo.

Miss Maude Rudy spent several days last week with her parents, at McElevys Fort.

Miss Ida Edmanson, of Pittsburg, is visiting at the Weaver home on Main Street.

Samuel Foss, of Reading, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Foss.

Miss Rebecca Meyers and Miss Anna Krebs were among the busy Easter shoppers at State College on Saturday.

## GOOD WAY TO DO BUSINESS.

Murray & Bitner Sell Reliable Remedy at Half Price and Guarantee a Cure.

When one can buy gold dollars for fifty cents it is a good time to purchase.

In ordering a 50c bottle of Dr. Howard's celebrated specific for the cure of constipation and dyspepsia at 25 cents, Murray & Bitner are giving one of the greatest trade chances ever offered to the people of Centre Hall.

If food does not digest well if there is gas or pain in the stomach, if the tongue is coated and the breath bad, if there is constipation and straining Dr. Howard's specific will cure you! If it does not, you have druggist Murray & Bitner personal guarantee to return your money.

Dr. Howard's specific gives quick relief and makes permanent cures of constipation, dyspepsia and all liver troubles.

These are strong statements, but Murray & Bitner are giving their customers a chance to prove their truth at just half the regular price—sixty cents for 25 cents. If they are not found true, all you have to do is to ask for your money.

Laundry will go out from this office next Wednesday.

"The Fifteenth of January" will come on March 26, in Boalsburg.

## LECTURE COURSE FOR 1913-1914.

Central Lyceum Bureau Again Furnishes Material for Next Season.

The Centre Hall Lecture Course Committee contracted with John S. Arnold, of the Central Lyceum Bureau, at Harrisburg, for five attractions for the 1913-1914 course. The stipulated sum to be paid is \$215, the same as last year. Mr. Arnold, who in the past dealt so fairly and liberally with the committee, assured them that the course was the strongest yet purchased. The lecturers are recommended to be better than any in the past, and the musical combinations as good as any in the bureau. Unless changes are announced later the course will run thus:

Senator Elmer J. Burkett, of Nebraska.

The Original Strollers (male quartette).

Charles C. Wilson.

Leigh-Smith Company. (Vocal and instrumental music; three ladies and a gentleman.)

Harry Bowser.

Each attraction is highly recommended by the press. Senator Burkett is well known as a public man and held a seat in the United States Senate. The Strollers are a combination that will give a large variety of music—vocal, bells, violin, trombone, and one of the numbers is a reader. Mr. Wilson is especially highly recommended as a lecturer and ranks with Platt, Glenn and Lee. The Leigh-Smith Company is a strong musical combination: A whistler, pianist, violinist, soloist, harpist, and a reader of high class. And Dr. Bowser needs no commendation.

## UNION PARTIALLY DRY.

Five of Eleven Liquor License Applications Refused—The Welsh Distillery Out of Business.

Union county license court had a sensational termination Saturday evening when Judge Albert Johnson announced that six licenses were granted and five refused, reducing the number of licenses in the county, including a distillery, from nine to six.

Licenses were granted to the Baker House, Lewisburg; Cameron House, Lewisburg, and hotels at Winfield, New Berlin, West Milton and Laurelton. Licenses were refused for the Union Hotel, Lewisburg, and hotels at Glen Iron, Allenwood, Millinburg and the Reish distillery.

Licenses were refused for the Reish distillery, which has been in operation for more than a century, because of testimony offered by a former district attorney, David Glover, that Reish had sold whisky at retail to men of known intemperate habits. License was refused the Allenwood Hotel, because the landlord permitted men to imbibe a case of beer in the hotel barn on a Sunday which they bought the day previous.

Millinburg, the town that was made dry a year ago, was refused on the ground that the town has prospered more without license than it did when hotels were licensed. The temperance forces have taken over one of the two hotel buildings, and it is their plan to remodel and re-equip and conduct an uptodate temperance house.

## Woodward.

The concert held Saturday night was quite a success.

J. B. Ard and Harris Stover purchased new automobiles.

Charles and Roy Musser were to Millheim Saturday forenoon.

A. C. Sifer spent several days last week in Pittsburg.

Wm. Lingle who is employed at Yeagerstown is visiting his family.

L. L. Weaver's entertained Mr. Stover and family, of Aaronsburg, on Sunday.

Mrs. Roy Hazel, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Moyer.

Prof. and Mrs. Drum, and Prof. and Mrs. George, of Lewisburg, spent several days in town.

Mrs. Wilson Ard and baby Raymond, of Aaronsburg, are visiting at the home of Dr. W. P. Ard.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Kerstetter, of Coburn, spent the Sabbath with friends in town.

Miss Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Snyder, died at her home Friday morning at 3 o'clock. The cause of her death was tuberculosis. Her age was twenty-two years, and six months. She is survived by her parents and the following brothers, Calvin and George, from Wisconsin, Clayton, Robert and Porter, Buffalo, N. Y., Fred and Freeman at home. The funeral took place Wednesday forenoon. Services were held in the Evangelical church, Rev. Donat the Reformed minister officiating, assisted by Rev. Dice.

Ralph Bitner and Gross Allison, students at Pennsylvania State College, are home for the Easter vacation.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

The laws that have been passed, and others in various stages in House and Senate.

The Senate passed finally the following bills:

Providing that when the judges of any judicial district are absent or incapacitated application may be made to a law judge in an adjoining district and the proper order made or rule or decree issued.

Prohibiting the furnishing by gift, sale or otherwise of cigarettes or cigarette paper to minors, requiring minors to divulge where and from whom cigarettes or cigarette papers have been obtained.

Proposing an amendment to the constitution allowing counties, cities, borough, townships, school districts, or other municipalities or incorporated districts to increase their indebtedness.

Regulating appeals from tax and other public accounts and settlements of the fiscal officers of the state.

House bills permitting wholesale and retail liquor dealers to keep such licensed place of business open during the pendency of any application for transfer of license.

Proposing an amendment to the constitution increasing the term limit of bond issues from thirty to fifty years.

Prohibiting unstaralized foreigners from fishing or killing fish.

House bill providing for the further protection of elk.

## Minstrels Give Pleasing Entertainment.

The Millheim Minstrel Club gave a very creditable entertainment in Grange Aaronsia, Thursday night of last week. The house was well filled and good order prevailed throughout the performance. The proceeds were upwards of forty dollars.

The program was rendered in two parts, the first consisting chiefly of solos and choruses, and a flood of jokes and answers to conundrums put at the end men, Frank and Springer, by the interlocutor, B. M. Stover. The singing in this part of the program was good and the audience was kept in a state of continued uproar by the good work of the end men. Part two consisted of guitar specialties, by Mr. Royer, and a classy stump speech, "Or any other man," by Tom Frank. Mr. Frank showed marked ability in the rendition of his topic, and that he was the best coon on the stage was the consensus of opinion. This is said without detracting from the splendid work of G. Springer, Musser and Wilcox.

The company was made up of the following: Messrs. Stover, manager; G. Springer, Wilcox, Frank, Musser, Duck, Royer, Schreckengast, Kessler, W. Springer, and Smith. The pianists were Misses Gutelius, Musser and Shelten.

## Two Dwellings Burn.

The home of Mrs. Mary Newman, in Boggs township, was entirely destroyed by fire. Her loss is \$1,000 with \$600 insurance.

Another house to burn was that of Alfred Peters, of Dix Run, in Union township. Mrs. Peters made a narrow escape with her life, as she and her children were obliged to flee in their night clothing.

It is presumed the house took fire from a smoke house. There was insurance in the sum of \$800.

## Spring Normal School.

A Spring Normal School will be opened at Tusseyville on April 21st, and continue for eight weeks. Preparation of teachers for examination will be one line of work also work leading to entrance to higher schools. Two grades of classes will be conducted in all common school branches.

For terms and further particulars and information address,

W. R. JONES, A. B.,  
Centre Hall, Pa.

Box 146 3t. pd.

## Transfer of Real Estate.

Jacob B. Bame to J. M. Stover, tract of land in Aaronsburg. \$507.

Fietta Krumrine et bar to C. M. Bierly, tract of land in Miles twp. \$1125.44.

Susan Harter's exrs to Moses Walters, tract of land in Marion twp. \$750.

Joseph J. Rhoads et al to A. G. Morris, tract of land in Bellefonte. \$8500.

Z. D. Thomas to B. Emma Hess, tract of land in Aaronsburg. \$500.

Corra R. Pierce et bar to Cornelius Musser, tract of land in State College. \$500.

David C. Hall to William C. Eminhizer, tract of land in Union twp. \$5000.

Abraham Watson et ux to Pearl Shank, tract of land in Boggs twp. \$110.

The state legislature has passed a bill which prohibits the sale of cigarettes in this state after July 1, 1914.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Mrs. H. J. Lafibert has recovered from two weeks' illness with grip.

Mrs. Lucy Henney went to Philadelphia Monday morning on business and pleasure.

Mrs. W. B. Mingle returned from Philadelphia the latter part of last week, and opened her home here.

Former Congressman B. K. Focht has been appointed a member of the water supply commission in Pennsylvania, at \$3000 a year.

Charles B. Sheehey retired from the merchandise firm of Sheehey & Gentzel, at State College, and has been succeeded by John Hubler.

Guy Jacobs came home from York the latter part of last week, and was at the home of his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Jacobs, in Centre Hall, for a few days.

Misses Mabel Stover and Inez Bartly, of Bellefonte, were guests of Miss Helen Luse, in Centre Hall, for a few days. They returned home on Monday.

The Bellefonte borough statement shows a net indebtedness of \$64,904 and a bonded indebtedness of \$104,000. The assessed valuation in that borough is \$1,672,395.

"Blue Eyes," who names Centre Hall as her abode, announces her intention, in a Philadelphia newspaper, to wed in April and asks what would be becoming in the way of dress. Now who is "Blue Eyes"?

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Baumgardner, who moved onto their farm near Oriole, Lycoming county, last fall, have quit farming, having disposed of their land at a good figure. It is rumored that they will return to State College.

The following residents of Millheim autored to Centre Hall Thursday night and witnessed the minstrel show: Landlord Shawver, Misses Trixie Shawver, Alice Zimmerman, Helen Colyer, Sadie Miller, Irene Watkins and Mable Auman.

L. W. Emery, of Mazappa, was a visitor at the home of his brother, C. F. Emery, in Centre Hall, returning home on Saturday. He had been engaged in the mercantile business, but recently sold his store and will turn to farming, and will locate at Co-wan.

W. R. Jones, son of Rev. and Mrs. R. R. Jones, was at the home of his parents for a few days last week. Mr. Jones is a public school teacher in Benner township, and at the close of the term will open a spring normal school at Tusseyville for preparing students for higher schools or to qualify for teachers examinations. See his ad. in this issue.

W. Gross Mingle came up from WilkesBarre the latter part of last week and remained here until Monday. On Friday Mrs. Mingle will make sale of personal property and a few days later will join her husband in their new home. Mr. Mingle is very much pleased with his position, and relates that the company is doing an extensive business.

There was spirited bidding on horses and cows at the sale held in Centre Hall by S. W. Smith. The first horse sold for \$289, being the highest figure paid for horses flesh at any sale this spring, and was purchased by a Clearfield man. The animal was rising four years old, and western bred. A four year old chunk sold for \$202.

Cows sold readily, the best one being knocked off at \$80. Everything put on the block was sold. The horses and colts sold for \$1112.50, and the cows for nearly \$800.

The Gazette mentions these sales of real estate in Bellefonte: J. Thomas Mitchell, Esq., sold his property on East Linn street to Edmund Blanchard, the consideration being \$3,000. Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard will be given possession May 1st, and will make that their future home. Donald Potter purchased the Charles McCafferty residence in North Spring street, now occupied by Mrs. Rachael Harris, and will occupy the same. The consideration mentioned was \$3,500.

It is generally regretted that the time limit in vogue in the United Evangelical church obliged the removal of Rev. S. A. Snyder from the local field. He proved a useful man in many ways, and was highly regarded by church people of all denominations. Mrs. Snyder will also be missed very much in various societies that have become active locally during the past four years. Rev. Snyder went to his new field on Saturday afternoon, and Wednesday Mrs. Snyder and the children went to their new home in Middleburg. The successor here as pastor of the Centre Hall charge is Rev. F. H. Foss, who with his family came here last week, and Sunday the minister filled the regular appointments, and greatly pleased the members of the church.