



A REVIEW OF COUNTY FINANCES.

Tax Levy Reduced Two Mills for Current Year by the Present Democratic Board.
The financial condition of Centre county as revealed by the report of the county auditors for the year 1914, just published, is certainly very gratifying to those who pay taxes.

Cash in the hands of the County Treasurer, John D. Miller, on January 4th, 1915, is shown to be \$32,321.73, which with other assets set out, all good, leaves the county almost without debt. This is the result of three years' Democratic administration, and it contrasts greatly and very favorably with the financial statement covering the year 1911. In that statement the total indebtedness of the county, on January 1, 1912, was \$139,505.83.

In their report for 1911 the county auditors had noted many errors and irregularities which had been committed and grown up through the negligence and want of care and diligence, in the administration of the finances of the county.

There is also a reduction of two mills in the tax levy for county purposes for the current year. This means that the county finances have been so honestly and judiciously administered during the three years the present board of commissioners have been in office that the ordinary expenditures, together with the amount due the sinking fund and interest on the bonded debt, can all be met by a tax of four mills for county purposes.

County finances or their management fluctuates very much with the politics of the majority of the board, as appears by the statements published by the different boards. The first board of county commissioners, the majority of which were Republicans, came into office on the first Monday of January, 1888. The board that preceded this board left a cash balance in favor of the county of \$24,000.00, perhaps over that. The board which entered upon their duties as stated in January, 1888, term expired on the first Monday of January, 1891, made away with the snug balance in favor of the county left by their predecessors, and left liabilities in excess of well padded assets, of \$5,267.63. What is meant by well padded assets, is that a lot of uncollectible notes and claims on which nothing could ever be realized were counted as assets.

This board was succeeded by a board, the majority of which were pure, unadulterated Democrats, and continued in office until the first Monday of January, 1897. They not only paid the debt left by their predecessors and made many repairs to the County property, but left assets, including \$7,722.96 in cash, of \$13,701.70, and in this only assets that could be realized upon were counted.

The majority of the board which came into office on the first Monday of January, 1897, were Republicans, and the annual statement for 1899, published February, 1900, shows a balance, including cash and assets of \$24,229.12 in favor of the county, but this board was succeeded by a board which took office the first Monday of January, 1900, and the auditors report for 1902, published in 1903, shows a balance in favor of the county, over all liabilities, of \$25,001.38.

In 1902 the politics of the majority of the board again became Republican, and the report for 1905, published in 1906, shows liabilities in excess of all assets of \$32,517.72.

The board again became Democratic on the first Monday of January, 1906, and when their term expired on the first Monday of January, 1909, the liabilities of the county exceeded the assets \$14,213.19.

The tax levy ran along from about 1888 at the rate of three mills on the dollar until 1890, when the only Republican board the county had for many years, in its desire to be re-elected, reduced the levy to two and one-half mills. It did them no good. The people preferred a competent board and sat down on the board that tried to run the county for two and one-half mills, when everybody knew that it took at least three mills.

Beginning then with 1891, the tax levy for county purposes up to and including 1905, was three mills. From 1906 up to and including 1911 the rate was five mills for county purposes.

The board whose term expired on the first Monday of January, 1912, had left such a tremendous debt that there was no way out, but to increase the millage. This therefore, was done and for 1912 and 1913 the rate was seven mills, and for 1914 six mills. The funds received were so carefully applied that the large cash balance in the hands of County Treasurer Miller, to wit: \$32,321.73, together with all available assets, left the net debt of the county, on January 4th, 1915, \$6,585.61 as against \$139,505.84, on the first Monday of January, 1912.

Continued at foot of next column.

LOCAL OPTION DEMOCRATIC.

State Chairman Morris' visit to Capitol Hill, his talks with legislators of his party and his published assurance that the Democrats will be the stoutest local option champions of the Governor is in harmony with the courageous way that party met the local option issue in its platform and campaign and in striking contrast with the shirking course of the Penrose followers.

Pennsylvania Democracy was and is outspoken for local option. On this great question of home rule it never faltered. It championed the cause knowing that it would cost its candidates the enormous vote and still more enormous campaign fund of the liquor forces. It went boldly before the people, declaring its determination to let the people of a community decide whether it should be "wet" or "dry." It did not, as the Penrose gang, sidestep the question by a vote of 95 to 5 or by any other vote. It did more than that. It requested such of its legislative candidates as were on the Personal Liberty ticket with Dr. Brumbaugh to quit it. It did not want nor does it desire any entangling alliance with "boozers" that fattens on government.

Its sincerity thus proved, the Democratic legislators can support and work for local option legislation with eagerness.

But Governor Brumbaugh should not stop where he is. Less than a handful of men can, with a wink, transform the Governor's doubts to certainties. Let him appeal for local option aid with open frankness to "Jim" McNichol, Penrose, the Vares, Crow and others of his backers upon whom the boozers interests are depending. If they will, the early passage of a local option bill is assured.

High Price Paid for Wheat.
What is said to have been the highest price ever received for wheat in this state has been paid to Thomas W. Piollet, a graduate of the school of agriculture of the Pennsylvania State College. He was given \$1.50 a bushel for nearly 1000 bushels by the Dayton Milling company.

Piollet grew wheat of extra high grade. His success is attributed to special care in fertilization and liming. The Piollet farm is located at Wysox, three miles from Towanda. While in college, this successful young farmer had time to play football on the varsity eleven as well as study agriculture.

Big Farm Sales.
One of the largest sales in Centre county to date was that of John Behrer, at Waddle, the total amount of goods sold being \$5,500. Horses especially sold high, one animal bringing \$350, and a team \$600. It is estimated that one thousand people attended.

Another big sale was that of George Irwin, at Pennsylvania Furnace. Horses sold for \$250, cows for \$95, and yearling colts for \$110. The total amount was almost \$4000.

County Entitled to Five Scholarships.
By means of a donation made to The Pennsylvania State College by Dr. and Mrs. T. R. Hayes of Bellefonte five scholarships worth \$85 each are given each year to the five counties of the state showing the highest ratio of students in the college to the total population of the county. The successful counties for 1915 are: Cameron, Centre, Dauphin, Forest, and Wyoming.

The county superintendent of schools together with the high school principals of each county constitute a governing board to make the appointment before June 1st. Centre county has held one of these scholarships each year since their inauguration.

Among the holders have been: Benjamin G. Hunter, Raymond Jenkins, E. E. Thomas, L. D. Whiting, and Ellis O. Keller, all of Bellefonte.

Rev. Samuel Smith, a veteran minister of the Evangelical church, died in Millersburg at the age of eighty-two years.

(Continued from previous column.)

It is to be remembered that in recent years the expense upon counties has increased greatly by reason of legislation making counties liable for certain expenses which before were not paid out of the county treasury. While this is true the board of commissioners, especially when Republican, refused or failed to recognize these new obligations. And the consequence was they invariably left the county largely in debt and it was made the duty of the Democratic boards to raise funds and pay the debt. This they always did fairly and honestly, and following the example of their Democratic predecessors, the present board has heroically met its great responsibilities and should be, as they deserve to be, re-nominated and re-elected.

NEWS OF 1881.

Notes Taken From Files of The Centre Reporter of Thirty-four Years Ago.

May 20th—On Sunday, while Dr. Alexander had his horse hitched to a post at Wm. Emerick's, the animal took fright and ran off, badly wrecking the sulky.

Horace Zorby has the material on the ground for the new brick school house at Potters Mills.

Many of our farmers are using phosphate as fertilizers, with good results. Many farmers in Nittany Valley as well as some in this valley, are obliged to replant corn.

Last Wednesday night the store of Clevan Dinges was entered and a lot of sugar, molasses, and some smaller articles taken. The thieves gained entrance through the cellar door in front of the store.

June 2nd—Thomas Hull of Aaronsburg was quite unfortunate on Monday last. He was working on the Evangelical church, in course of erection, when one of the scaffolding boards broke and precipitated him to the ground, a distance of fifteen to twenty feet, causing him to sustain some severe injuries internally.

The last freak of nature are three kittens grown together at the under hind part of the body, produced by a cat owned by John T. Lee of this place. The triplets have perfect bodies and seem more lively than the other kitten of the same litter.

Farm House Burned.

The dwelling house on the farm owned and occupied by Clair Weston, three-fourth mile north of Port Matilda, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday week. It appears the fire originated at about 9:15 p. m., in an outbuilding and no cause can be assigned for it. Nearly all the furniture in the house was saved owing to the great effort of the owner, who labored until completely exhausted. The house had just been erected by Mr. Weston a few years ago, he having bought the farm and improved it. The loss was much larger than the insurance, which was \$500 on the house and \$108 on the furniture.

McSparran Hits at Intensive Farming.

Intensive agriculture, if practiced on American farms, would flood the markets with farm produce in such quantities that the grower would get virtually no returns, said John A. McSparran, of Lancaster county, successor to Farmer Cressy as master of the State Grange, while addressing the students of the agricultural school at the Pennsylvania State College. He predicted it would be at least a century before there would be sufficient markets in this country to justify intensive soil-tilling methods.

Discussing intensive production, Mr. McSparran, who was the chief speaker at the celebration of College Grange Day, said: "The farmers of today are not so much interested in growing the other side of grass as they are in knowing who gets it after it is grown." He emphasized the need for greater conservation in distribution and transportation rather than for increased crops.

"Our population of thirty-one persons to a square mile is entirely too scanty," explained Mr. McSparran, to warrant the adoption of intensive methods in America. In Belgium, Germany, France, and some other European countries where five or six hundred persons live on a square mile of land, there is every justification for intensive systems, but before we farmers will listen to arguments favoring increased crop production there must be developed markets that will consume the present output of the American farmer."

Quantity Fine Quality.

No American monthly at any price offers the same amount of reading as The Youth's Companion, and none can offer reading of better quality. Less than four cents a week engages its service in your family—its clean entertainment, its fine suggestiveness, week after week. There is an Editorial Page marked by clear and conscientious thinking, not giving voice to the personal convictions of the editor, but supplying the matter out of which convictions are formed. There are stories in which are to be found the thrill of action and the quiet interest of home life, sparkling humor, and genuine pathos. There is information, carefully sifted, so that the reader may rely upon its trustworthiness.

If you do not know The Companion, let us send you one or two issues free with the Forecast for the current volume.

Every new subscriber who sends \$2.00 for a year's subscription will receive free The Companion Home Calendar for 1915.—The Youth's Companion, 144 Berkeley Street, Boston, Mass.

Confer First Degree.

The good work of the degree teams of the local I. O. O. F. lodge has resulted in frequent calls from other lodges in the valley, the latest invitation having been given by the Spring Mills order, Friday evening. Thirty-four members of the Centre Hall lodge, besides a number from other lodges, were present, the total number being one hundred and ten. The first degree was conferred upon a class of three candidates. Lunch was served after lodge. Among those present were Messrs. William Colyer, John Lucas, Michael Miller, Charles Miller, Thomas Bariges, Charles Bartholomew, Thomas Moore, Julian Fleming, Charles Crust, William Keller, William Kerlin, William Lucas, Victor Auman, John Luse, Clymer McClelland, Irvin Showers, Lyman Smith, Robert Meyer, Bruce Arney, Harvey Mark, Edward Lair, Edward Crawford, E. S. Ripka, John Puff, Clyde Bradford, William Houser, B. Garis, William Homan, Perry Luse, J. W. Whiteman, Joseph Lutz, Max Harshbarger, Charles Smith, Herbert Garis, all of Centre Hall lodge; Thomas L. Smith, State College lodge; Rev. W. H. Williams, Port Matilda lodge; W. E. Breen, H. W. Hartman, Joseph Reifsnnyder, H. Leitzell, Millheim lodge.

Missionary Society Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of the Huntingdon Presbytery will be held at State College on Wednesday and Thursday, March 24th and 25th. The committee of arrangements has prepared the following program for the meeting:

"The people that do reverence their God shall be strong and do exploits."

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.
Prayer.
Roll call.
Devotional service, led by Dr. J. W. Lowrie, of China.

Address to young people, "God's Plan and Yours," Dr. Charles R. Watson.
Children's story hour, Miss Shultz and Miss Wishart.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.
Parent.

Addresses by Dr. Lowrie and Dr. Watson.
THURSDAY MORNING.
Hymn—Prayer—Minutes.
Swift survey of the Home Base.
Roll of Honor.

Delegates Round Table, in charge of Miss Burkett.
Address, Miss Gertrude Schultz.
Prayer for "Our Missions."
Reports of Committees.
Election of Officers.
Recess—Luncheon in the Methodist church, with program.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

1:30—Responsive reading.
Address, Miss Lulu R. Patton.
Address, Miss Alice Wishart.
Offering.
Solo—L. W. Reeve.
Closing moments.
2:15—Adjournment.

Ferry Added to Dry List.

Perry county was added to the list of dry counties in Pennsylvania when sixteen applicants for saloon licenses were turned down by the license court. Eleven applications were for old stands.

Perry is the ninth county in the state to be made dry by court rulings, the others being Green, Lawrence, Mifflin, Bedford, Huntingdon, Juniata, Venango and Tioga. Several counties have only one or two saloons.

In Luzerne county the court refused to renew licenses for forty-three old saloons. Newcopeck will be dry. The Luzerne judges rejected 103 new applications.

D. J. Nieman Back to Millheim.

Wednesday of last week D. J. Nieman purchased the department store of Harry Herr which the latter bought from Mr. Nieman about a year ago. An inventory was immediately begun and Mr. Nieman is now doing business again at the stand he held for a number of years. Mr. Herr has returned to his former home at Millville.

Harry B. Mensch has charge of the store at present and will continue until Mr. Nieman occupies his residence in Millheim, which will be in a few weeks. He will then be retained as clerk.

Woodward.

F. P. Guiseville and family from Fiedler spent Sunday in town.

Miss Grace Orndorf, who was seriously ill last week, is slowly improving.

Preaching services will be held in the Evangelical church Sunday evening. Services will be conducted by the new minister, Rev. D. C. Cairn.

Mrs. Sadie Richardson and son from Tusseyville are visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Boob.

Mrs. Roy D. Hazel of Cincinnati, Ohio, is spending some time with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Moyer.

Allen Hess of Yeagertown spent several days last week with friends in town.

Mrs. Phoebe Wise spent Saturday with her son, Samuel Orndorf, at Coburn.

DEATHS.

Samuel B. Taylor, a retired business man of long residence in Huntingdon, died at his home on the corner of Fifteenth and Mifflin street, on Sunday evening of last week.

Mr. Taylor had been falling in health for some time due to the infirmities of old age and his death was not unexpected. He was born at Pleasant Gap, March 23rd, 1833. He went to Huntingdon about seventeen years ago and in his earlier days he was a teacher, a profession he followed for many years. During the latter part of his life he conducted a store adjoining his residence but he discontinued this business a year or more ago owing to his advanced years. Mr. Taylor was a man who was highly respected by all who knew him. He was of a kind disposition and a Christian gentleman. He was a member of the M. E. church.

Sixty-three years ago he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Shaver, of Mt. Union, who preceded him to the grave a few years ago. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. Eliza Dunkle, widow of G. W. Dunkle, which occurred on the 6th of January, was first received here this week. Mr. and Mrs. Dunkle lived in Centre Hall a few years ago and from here moved to Elmira, New York, where Mr. Dunkle died a short time after. Mrs. Dunkle died at the home Mrs. Henry Hess, of 427 West Washington avenue, Elmira New York, aged seventy-nine years. She is survived by three sons, George M. Dunkle, of Alaska; Harry F. Dunkle, of Panama, and John B. Dunkle, of Rising Springs; three daughters, Miss Bertha D. Dunkle, of Los Angeles, Cal; Miss Clara Dunkle, of Williamsport, and Mrs. Henry Hess, of Elmira.

Horses Sell Well at Millheim.

The express load of western horses sold by F. O. Hoeterman at Millheim on Friday brought good prices. The average price paid was \$212.50 for twenty-eight head. The purchasers and the number of horses bought by each follows: H. Gilmore, 2; D. Musiek, 2; W. F. Musser, 2; A. Skilowsky, 2; R. J. Smith, 2; G. W. Erhart, 2; F. S. Musser, 2; N. Zimmerman, 4; G. B. Stover, Jr., J. W. Zerby, N. H. Yearick, J. W. Yearick, H. B. Haugh, A. B. Meyer, H. M. Swartz, D. W. Bariges, A. C. Confer, J. F. Breen, one each.

Letter from Illinois.

In asking that the address on his paper be changed from Orangeville, Ill., to McConnell, Ill., J. H. Jordan continues thus: "We still are quarantined in Stephenson county on account of the foot-and-mouth disease among cattle. Wednesday we intend to move to McConnell. A big snow storm visited this section but the snow is fast disappearing before the sun. We are all well at present."

Lecture in Grange Hall.

Rev. B. H. Hart, pastor of a Methodist church in Harrisburg, will deliver a lecture in Grange Hall, Friday evening of next week. Rev. Hart comes here on solicitation of the I. O. O. F. lodge. The lecture is free to everybody.

COBURN.

Those on the sick list are Edward Corman and Jack Elmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Krader spent Sunday at Spring Mills.

Revival meeting is still in progress at Paradise. Large crowds gather every night.

Charles Bryan from Centre Hall expects to move to this place in the near future.

William Claycomb has gone to Huntingdon county where he has found employment.

Jacob Eisenhuth has gone to Sunbury where he has found employment.

The little daughter of William Snively had the misfortune of falling one day last week and breaking her leg. Hope for her speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stover and daughter Mae from Wetham spent a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kaler; also at the home of Jacob Stover at Madisonburg.

Walter Barchatt, one of the state foresters, was promoted from Coburn to Troxeyville to take charge of the state forests at that place.

Ralph Kerstetter, a student in the employ of the railroad company, was promoted from Millersburg to Coburn to fill the place vacated by Byron Musser.

The exercises given by the Elk Creek school was largely attended; it was fine. The Coburn orchestra furnished the music for the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Motz and daughter Lodie from Woodward spent a day at the home of Mrs. Motz's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hoeterman.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Sunday is the first day of the official spring season.

Edward Brown attended a meeting of telephone men at Williamsport last week.

George Boozer a student of Mercersburg academy, is home on his Easter vacation.

The Hotel Haag and Brant House have raised their rates from a dollar a day to a dollar and a half. The high cost of living is to blame.

The Varneys, who conducted "Welfare Week" in Centre Hall a short time ago, are booked to appear in Bellefonte.

Mrs. Kate Saunders and daughter, Mrs. Raymond Miller, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dale, above Easelsburg.

L. Frank Mayes, the auctioneer, has withdrawn from the race for nomination for the office of prothonotary on the Republican ticket.

Wesley Shriver has taken the agency for the Crow-Elkhart automobiles and expects to put his advertisement before the public in due time.

Mrs. J. Q. Miles, mother of Mrs. G. O. Bener of Centre Hall, is lying critically ill at her home at Martha, with little hopes of recovery.

J. L. Spangler of Bellefonte is in Philadelphia. He will remain there several days and will then go to Atlantic City in quest of better health.

A number of robberies have been committed in Yeagertown during the past week. Private houses and business places have both been made objects of attack.

Judge Orvis disposed of five of the six licenses which were held over, last week. The five include four at Phillipsburg and one at Sandy Ridge. The Spring Mills hotel is the only one not disposed of.

The committee in charge of the big Odd Fellows' demonstration at Bloomsburg on the 23rd of next month expect that there will be at least twenty-five bands and that it will be the biggest one day celebration that the town has ever had.

D. Wagner Geiss will take charge of the Brockerhoff stables in Bellefonte after April 1st. Besides conducting the livery Mr. Geiss will also go in the hacking business, besides continuing in his present business—buying and selling of country produce.

Warren Wood, formerly landlord of the Spring Mills hotel and later at Jersey Shore, quit the management of the hotel at Hyde City, Clearfield county, a short time ago on account of the Judge Bell refusing licenses. He is looking about for another location.

The women suffragists in Millersburg made a canvass of literacy in that town last week and discovered that every woman could vote. They found, too, that a number of men fell short on the test. The census was taken to discover how many women would be able to read a ballot correctly.

A. S. Work, the artist who frescoed the Lutheran church in Centre Hall two years ago, has painted two sets of scenery for the Millheim Minstrel club's entertainment to be given in the town hall, March 18th and 20th. This is the best scenery ever shown in Millheim, says the Journal, and the boys are to be congratulated on being able to secure the services of an artist such as Mr. Work.

Orlando Hackenberg, of near Millheim, one day last week purchased the Michael Eby farm, in Haines township, from James S. Weaver, of Aaronsburg, who bought it last fall from the Eby estate, says the Journal. The farm contains 199 acres, 130 acres of which are clear and highly productive. The consideration is \$8,500 for the farm, Mr. Weaver having previously sold the timber. Mr. Hackenberg, after purchasing the above farm, sold the farm he occupies, containing 62 acres, to Al. Burrell, his near neighbor, for \$4,000. Both Hackenberg and Burrell will remain on the farms they now occupy for another year.

Charles Goodling made his first trip to the business section of Centre Hall in thirty years, at which time he was employed by Wolf & Son as clerk. This was back in 1855. Since leaving Centre Hall, Mr. Goodling has been over the greater part of the United States. For eighteen years he had been with H. B. Clifflin, in one or the other of his string of stores, and while in Nashville he met his wife, who is now living at Rebersburg, to which place Mr. Goodling finds his way whenever opportunity presents itself. He is now with M. Livingston & Son, a furniture establishment, and is selling over a large territory. He has a fine trade in Central Pennsylvania, and it is largely because he knows the business in which he is engaged.