



### A LETTER FROM ILLINOIS.

J. M. Siffler Writes Interestingly of Crop Conditions in His State—Makes Comment on "Reporter's" Council Article.

#### Editor Reporter:

Surely we do not wish to merit the scathing arraignment recently dished out to certain of your borough aldermen for dereliction of duty, exceeding authority or the tolerance of a wild species of graft to taint the morals of an otherwise clean and peaceful community. We earnestly hope you may have succeeded in nipping this vile contagion common to larger municipalities, in the bud, because without curb or hindrance it soon becomes a scourge, or epidemic, harder to control than small-pox or infantile paralysis.

The writer, in the recent visits to Centre county, was compelled to acknowledge the general friendliness and hospitality of the people of Centre Hall, but does not hesitate to announce that quite a few, not excluding the editor, are indebted to him to the extent of a long personal letter.

Just now we are sweating in torrid heat, day after day, with no relief in sight. Rain, too, is needed for meadows and the late potato crop. The early crop blighted and the yield is not what was expected earlier in the season. Potatoes retail at \$1.00 per bushel. This has been a rather freaky year so far—cold and a superabundance of moisture up until July 1st when the weather man put the opposite extreme into practice here. We are reminded by people who retain records of the weather of the year 1816 that snow and ice were in evidence in the New England States in July and August of that year. Last year the rain gauge showed a rain fall of nearly six feet here during which time there were no ideal corn weather days. Our corn crops was the nearest a failure in the history of this county. Fine stock was sold off by many and others had to import corn from other localities to bridge over a short age. Seed corn was at a premium and sold at from three to six dollars per bushel. Corn on good lands and with skillful handling promises a bumper yield this autumn. It is now six feet in height and tasseling. Corn on the low lands is rather backward and weedy, on account of the frequent rains prior to July 1st. The hay crop is immense and was put up in ideal shape in the hot sunshine. Small grains will yield very heavily. Winter wheat, rye and barley are nearly all in shock and will soon put the thrasher on the lum. Oats, especially late seedling, will be light in quality. This crop is nearly ready to harvest. The second cutting of alfalfa is in cock. Both cuttings were very heavy. New hay sells for \$10.00 per ton; wheat, \$1.00 per bushel; corn, 35c per bushel; barley, 60c per bushel. The fruit crop is light—no cherries or grapes. A light crop of strawberries, raspberries and apples. The vegetable crop is abundant.

The cry for intervention in Mexico has about subsided here and the jugoes and cowards who tried so hard to start something to pollute our atmosphere, have taken to joy-riding or are on a vacation at the lakes. Very few have applied at our recruiting station when the call to muster to the ranks was extended.

Many of us contemplate with supreme horror the account of the foolish, cruel, barbarous slaughter of the European war, as it has been offered to us through the press for about two years. It is an old saw that "every ill, wind blows some good." Human inventive genius seemingly has no limitations when the war lord, Mars, is at the throttle. In spite of this huge waste of life and treasure; in spite of commercial interruption and the deep-seated hatred engendered among nations and races by mortars, jugoes and graters (who by the way are never to be found on the firing line); in spite of all this chaos resultant of war, we must concede that during this struggle numerous commercial devices have been perfected that will prove serviceable in times of peace. Perhaps the "Deutschbano," the submersible merchant ship that recently made the voyage across the Atlantic in sixteen days, diving like a duck when danger was imminent, and deliver its cargo of drugs and chemicals, worth \$1,000,000, in Baltimore, is one of the latest wonders or inventions. Just now very many of us can imagine what a distinct benefit the commerce of a fleet of submarines like this "diving Dutchman" would be to this country. War certainly gave inspiration for this novel means of commerce from a country hedged on every side with bristling fortifications of an enemy.

Let I should burden your readers with too long a letter the writer asks pardon for the various digressions.

J. M. SIFFLER.  
Freeport, Illinois, July 22, 1916.

### MRS. HENRY SMITH'S SON.

His "Hardships" at the Mexican Border Compared With Those of Mother's Sons in Bloody Europe.

Mrs. Henry Smith of Winamac, Ind., wrote a letter to President Wilson complaining of the hardships her son was compelled to undergo as a member of the National Guard on duty in Texas.

The President, in his reply, has explained to her that the National Guard is at the border "not for the purpose of drill, but for the purpose of protecting the country," and that he "cannot believe that the men of the National Guard would wish to be excluded from it, or would lose heart because of the discomforts and inconvenience of the service."

If Mrs. Henry Smith were a wise woman she would not be writing to the President bewailing the trifling hardships to which her son is obliged to submit as a member of the National Guard. She would be down on her knees thanking God that the President is exerting every honorable effort to bring about a peaceful solution of the difficulties with Mexico, and that her boy is not already out on the firing line with the boys of 400,000 other American mothers.

The hardships to which the National Guard is subjected on the Texas frontier are about equal to the hardships of an ordinary strenuous vacation in the Maine or the Minnesota woods; but war is serious business. When Mrs. Henry Smith thinks about the petty inconveniences to which her son is subjected, let her think also of the millions of boys in Europe who are in the trenches and who are dying daily by the thousand in the midst of the most ghastly warfare known to human history.

Let her think of the boys lying on the fields with arms blown off, or legs blown off, or faces blown off, perishing in horrible agony for the lack of medical assistance which cannot reach them.

Let her think of the millions of boys in Europe who after this war is over will be crippled for life or with health shattered doomed to eke out a wretched existence as hopeless invalids.

Let her think of the millions of mothers who are not worrying because their boys have to eat army rations, but who are worried day and night lest they will never see their boys again alive.

Let her try to visualize the hourly terrors of a war in which 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 men have already been killed or wounded—most of them boys like her boy.

Then let her remember that except for the stamanship of Woodrow Wilson the body of her own son might be lying to-day in an unmarked grave in Flanders or France.

Mrs. Henry Smith, with true maternal solicitude, naturally thinks it is a great nuisance that her boy should have to sizzle in the heat of a Texas summer and live off coarse food, and so it is, but the troubles of her son are very small in comparison with what they would be if the United States had undertaken armed intervention in Mexico. Her own troubles, too, are very small in comparison with what they would be if she were watching the newspapers every day for the lists of dead and wounded in the fighting.

There are millions of Mrs. Henry Smiths in this country with boys who would be subject to military duty if the United States went to war. When they are disposed to find fault with the policies of the President, let them devote a little prayerful consideration to the millions of Mrs. Henry Smiths in Europe whose boys are now only memories. But for President Wilson these American mothers would be drinking the bitter dregs of that same cup.

Jones-Habel.  
Wednesday morning at the home of the bride's parents in Lancaster, Rev. Victor H. Jones and Miss Florence Habel were united in marriage by the groom's father, Rev. R. R. Jones, of Centre Hall. The courtship which culminated so happily began when the groom was a student in Franklin and Marshall College. After a short honeymoon the couple will begin housekeeping in the Reformed parsonage at Catawissa which is all ready furnished.

Mitroy People Motor to Centre Co.  
On Sunday of last week J. C. McClenahan, the auto man of Potters Mills, loaded up his Paige car with a group of Mitroy young folks and took them on a spin to interesting points in Centre county, including the Pennsylvania State College, the penitentiary grounds, Pleasant Gap fish hatchery and winding up with a grand supper at the Old Fort hotel. The following were in the party: Misses Sylvia Fultz, Meva Gearhart, Grace Dool, Virginia Taylor, Athalia Gearhart, Myrtle Penescker, Mabel Strong, and Albert Brock.

### James J. Gramley Writes.

Editors of the Reporter:

The past two weeks we have had a stretch of extremely hot weather, the thermometer registering from 90 to 96 in the shade. In all that heated period there was only a sprinkle of rain. It may be seen though that the weather was ideal for hay making. The corn has made remarkable growth, a good refreshing rain just before this great heat came on, working wonders. It was the longest stretch of hot weather that I have experienced in my seventy-four years.

I did all the mowing for my son Joe for forty-eight loads of hay. I purchased an umbrella and when the sun's rays became too great for me I opened it up and under its shade worked the tedder and hay rake. My son Ellis helped me one day and outside of this we did practically all the work ourselves. The latter felt uneasy about my doing such hard work and advised me to make a visit among my friends in the state. So I went to his home and taking his horse and buggy drove to Dakota, (Ill.) and there saw Thomas Shaffer and George Smith, the banker, formerly from Penn Hall, as well as other Centre county folks. I next went to Orangeville and looked up my friend, Bruce Goodhart, his good wife and their charming daughter. They were busy making hay, but had only four loads to finish up. Mr. Goodhart has bought an old farm a short distance away. There is a big brick house, having five rooms above and five below; there are more cupboards and closets in this house than in any I ever saw. There is a big bank barn, very similar to the ones found in Pennsylvania. The land is rolling but very fertile—very much like the good farms in Brush Valley. I remained with the Goodhart family over night and on Sunday morning at five o'clock went with my host to take a look at the horses and colts in pasture. After the miking was done we made a trip to the creamery in Orangeville. His last milk check was \$150.00. He is a good farmer and his crops are fine.

I found more Pennsylvania people in the city of Orangeville than in any western city I have visited. I next drove to Cedarville and visited the George Wert family. Mrs. Wert informed me that her father, George Corman, brother of A. N. Corman, of Centre county, was badly injured by being pitched off the reaper seat, his right leg being held in the lever which is used to lower the guards. His horses stopped at his call, but backed until one big wheel had passed over his hand. By a superhuman effort he threw himself up and raised himself up, finally releasing his foot which was firmly held in the lever. The fleshy part of his leg below the knee received a bad wound. He is now walking with crutches.

So far I have been able to determine from my visits, this year will show the biggest hay crop in the past four years. Rye fields shocked well with the exception of a few fields which were sowed broadcast. Barley and oats also shocked well. Altogether it looks like the biggest crops all around since I came to Illinois.

This leaves my boys and myself well, hoping it finds you and the readers of your papers the same.

JAMES J. GRAMLEY.  
Freeport, Ill., July 24, 1916.

To Delinquent Subscribers.  
Reporter readers who are a year or more in arrears on subscription should remit at once. With paper, ink, rollers and other material steadily advancing we are obliged to pay from fifty to one hundred per cent. more on these articles than a few months ago. And these bills must be met monthly. There are many subscribers, happily, to whom this notice need give no anxiety, but there are others who are in the habit of allowing their subscription to drag over the limit of one year allowed us by the postoffice department. Look at your label, you can see at a glance how far you are back. There should be a "6" or "7" on your tab. Is there?  
Let this be a final request, please.

The Governor and Secretary of Agriculture to be here on Farm Inspection Tour.  
A farm inspection tour, under direction of the State Department of Agriculture, will include a stop at Centre Hall on Tuesday of the week of the Encampment and Fair. The Governor and Secretary of Agriculture, Charles E. Patton, together with one hundred interested parties, will tour the state in autos and make addresses in many towns.

Aged Couple Marry  
John B. Harnden, aged seventy-three, and Mrs. Louie Gray, sixty-six, both of Altoona, were married in that city Thursday afternoon. The groom is a native of Centre county.

### Old Veteran Gone.

Thursday morning of last week, at 12:20 o'clock, death summoned William Elliott Snyder, one of Potter township's aged citizens and Civil war veterans. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Oman, at Linden Hall, with whom he had spent the preceding ten days. It was his intention to return to his home near Centre Hall on Saturday. For the past four weeks he had been very feeble, but had not been required to take his bed.

Mr. Snyder was the last surviving son of John Adam and Phoebe Tigert Snyder and was born near New Berlin, Snyder county, eighty-two years ago. In 1859 he removed to Centre county and has lived in and about Potters Mills and near Centre Hall ever since. In 1864 he enlisted as a member of Co. D, 208th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served to the end of the Civil war, receiving an honorable discharge. At Petersburg he received a wound but not a serious one.

In 1860 he married Sarah A. Spieker, daughter of Michael Spieker, who survives him with five children, four having passed away. The remaining four daughters and son are: Mrs. James Oman, of Linden Hall; Mrs. Anna B. Shunk, of Spring Mills; W. H. Snyder, of near Centre Hall; Mrs. Martha J. Markle, of Axemann, and Mrs. Walter Erdley, of Milton. Two half sisters also remain—Mrs. Phoebe Sasserman, of Tiffin, Ohio, and Mrs. Abbie Guilewite, of Oil City. Twenty-nine grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren also survive.

The funeral services were held Sunday morning at the house and burial made in the Centre Hall cemetery, Rev. F. H. Foss of the United Evangelical church officiating.

### 42 Go to Atlantic City from Here.

The thought of getting mixed up with the sharks had no fear for the Sunday excursionists to Atlantic City and more than 400 took passage from Bellefonte to Coburn. Two sections were run, the first with nine coaches, leaving twenty minutes before schedule time and the second following a half hour later. The following number of tickets were sold along part of the local branch: Bellefonte, 237; Lemont, 48; Centre Hall, 42; Spring Mills, 14; Coburn, 39. A total of 2,800 people from Bellefonte, Sunbury, Williamsport and other points, as well as from Lewistown and Altoona, were conveyed to the playground of America by the Pennsy. Two trains went from Lewistown and three from points north of Harrisburg, including Bellefonte and Williamsport.

From the sale of the excursion tickets the Pennsy received \$8,400 and with the deduction of switching and other charges, the event will net the company about \$5,000.

The train home reached Centre Hall at 1:45 Monday morning.

### Ford Car Topples into Creek.

On their way home from Bellefonte Wednesday night of last week, Calvin Lantz and four other men, all of Pleasant Gap, went down over a small embankment in Mr. Lantz's Ford car and were spilled into the creek at a point a mile below Pleasant Gap. It was about the midnight hour and a heavy fog could not be pierced by the lights of the Ford, causing Mr. Lantz to leave the road. The car was not going fast and very gracefully turned over on its side into the creek. The occupants received a good wetting and the top of the car was badly damaged. Irvin Dreese, of Lemont, played the rescue act with his big car when he contracted to pass by a short time after the accident.

### Bad Freight Wreck at Martha.

One of the worst freight wrecks in the history of Tyrone division took place at Martha station Sunday afternoon when a broken axle caused a pile up of twenty-five cars loaded with coal. The broken axle occurred in the front part of the train. Fortunately no one was hurt. The track was torn up for a distance of about 600 feet. The Williamsport division derrick and wreck crew assisted in clearing up the debris.

### July's Heat Record.

July's thirty-one days showed an average temperature of 87 degrees. There were eight days when mercury stood at 90 or over, the highest point reached being 98 degrees, on the 8th. Twenty days the 80's had it, while only on three days did the mercury contract into the 70's.

Almost three inches of rain fell during the month.

### Will Preach Harvest Home Service.

Rev. Walter H. Traub, the Lutheran minister at State College, will deliver the Harvest Home sermon in the auditorium on Grange Park on the Sunday of the Encampment and Fair, which will be September 10th.

### DEATHS.

Mrs. Kathryn Grossman, wife of Ira Grossman, died at her home in Potters Mills Sunday afternoon at four o'clock from the effects of a paralytic stroke sustained four hours previous. For two weeks or more her health was not of the best. Funeral services were held on Wednesday morning at her late home and burial made at Tusseyville, her pastor, Rev. D. S. Kurtz, officiating.

Deceased was Kathryn Sweeney, a daughter of John and Mary Sweeney, seven years ago. Besides her husband one daughter, Mrs. E. Clayton Wagner, of Centre Hall, survives, as do one brother and two sisters, namely, William Sweeney, of Georges Valley, Mrs. Byron Garis, of Centre Hall, and Miss Julia Sweeney, of State College.

John Keene, of Edwardsburg, Michigan, who last summer spent several months in Centre county visiting his sisters, Mrs. John H. Horner, at Tusseyville, and Mrs. George Shook, at Penn Hall, died one day last week, according to a letter received by the former lady from her brother in the same Michigan city. He was found dead in bed. His age was about sixty-seven years. Mr. Keene was a native of Colyer and went west many years ago, being engaged in the carpenter trade. His visit here last summer was the first in twenty-three years. He was married for the second time shortly after his return home last summer. Besides his wife two sisters and a brother survive.

From Taylor, North Dakota, comes the announcement of the death of Charles M. Royer, son of W. L. Royer, who a year ago visited his sister, Mrs. H. C. Shirk, in this place.

The young man, aged thirty-three years, was ill but two days, his death resulting Wednesday, July 19th, from the rupture of a blood vessel in the head. He had not been in good health for some time, having been subject to fainting spells. His wife and two children are left to mourn his death. The body was shipped to Orangeville, Illinois, the birthplace of the deceased, where interment took place Friday.

Mrs. J. E. Waite, of Lock Haven, died at her mother's home in Lemont on Friday evening of a complication of diseases. She is survived by her husband and three daughters, Helen, Anna and Marie, of Lock Haven, and one son, Dr. J. H. Waite, of Boston. She is also survived by her mother, Mrs. Jacob Bottorf, of Lemont; three sisters, Mrs. M. Elizabeth Olewine of Bellefonte, Miss Ella Bottorf, of Lemont; Mrs. R. R. Reed, of Chambersburg, Ill., and two brothers, P. Hall Bottorf, of Lemont, and Willis M. Bottorf, of Bellefonte.

Funeral services were private and were conducted from the Bottorf home Monday morning.

### Little Girl Burned to Death.

Luella Musser, the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Musser, of State College, was burned so badly last Thursday evening that she died a few hours afterwards. The mother was away from home and in company with the father and another sister little Luella went to a store to make purchases. She slipped away and going home took a chair to reach the cupboard where she gained the match box. She then went out on the back porch and lighted paper. Her clothing caught fire and burned so rapidly that when a neighbor who heard her screams reached her the little tot's flesh was burned so badly that she died shortly after.

The little girl was buried Saturday afternoon in the Pine Hall cemetery. The parents, a brother and a sister survive.

### Discouraged Spinster Ends Life by Burning.

Miss Mollie Haas, a middle-aged spinster of Roopsturg, a small town a few miles west of Bellefonte, ended her life Friday afternoon by going into the kitchen of her home, saturating her clothing with oil, applying a lighted match and then running out on the porch and burning to death in sight of the neighbors. She was dead before any one could reach her.

Miss Haas' father at one time owned and operated a brewery at Roopsturg and was well to do. When refused a license he died from worry and his estate soon dwindled away, until his daughter was in want.

### Fine Crops in North Dakota.

W. L. Royer, of Taylor, North Dakota, in writing the Reporter under date July 24, says: "Our crops are simply fine. The weather and moisture could not have been better. A good man is getting \$50.00 per month and many more are needed at that price. Female help, too, is scarce."

### TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

#### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

J. Relfennyder, of Linden Hall, who was a patient at the Look Haven hospital, was discharged on Friday.

The barn on the William Homan farm, east of town, was rodded with "National" lightning cable last week.

Mrs. Harry Spangler and two daughters, of Chicago, Illinois, are visiting at the home of W. W. Spangler, in this place.

Mrs. W. Gross Mingle and son Philip, of Philadelphia, are enjoying a short visit with the former's father and sister at the D. A. Boozer home.

Miss Jane Markle, a school teacher of Jeannette, was the guest on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Keller. Miss Markle is attending summer school at Pennsylvania State College, and is a niece of Rev. S. H. Dietzell.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Roush, of Reading, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Rishel, near Farmers Mills. Mr. Roush is a native of Rebersburg and for some years has been an engineer on a passenger locomotive.

Approximately five hundred loads of stones were crushed east of Aaronburg for repair work on the state highway in that vicinity. A week ago the crusher was moved west of Millheim, where another lot of stones are being crushed.

A baby boy, weighing eight and one-half pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Burns, at Muncy, on Saturday. He has been named Lewis Earle Burns. Mrs. Burns will be known as Miss Nina Snyder. It is the second child in the family.

Mrs. F. P. Geary and daughter Agnes are spending a few weeks at the Central Oak Heights camp meeting grounds, near West Milton. They are with relatives who own a cottage on the grounds which are the property of the United Evangelical association.

Millheim appears to be suffering from the hands of a band of petty thieves whose operations range from robbing front porches of cushions and coverings to chicken stealing and breaking into stores. The thieves showed their contempt for the law by raiding the chicken houses of both justices of the peace in that borough.

An epidemic of paralysis is prevalent among Perry county horses, especially in the vicinity of New Buffalo. Three horses of George Geaver, of that place, have died and other farmers report that their beasts are ailing in the same manner. The backs of the animals weaken and their rear legs stiffen. They finally go down and are unable to rise again.

Farmers in the Juniata Valley, Mifflin county, say there will be a bad dark bread this season as much of the wheat is growing in the shocks, owing to the extreme wet weather. The farmers have experienced a great deal of trouble from grasshoppers cutting the twine band which encircle the sheaves when tied by the binder and are looking forward to a brand of twine that will eradicate this feature.

Mrs. J. T. Baker, of Kansas City, Missouri, formerly Miss Margaret E. Keller, writes the Reporter concerning the health of her mother, Mrs. S. Ellen Keller, who will be eighty-one years old September 6th, next. After a severe sickness last winter she is able to be up and around again and is quite active for one of her years. She delights in reading the Reporter which brings her the news from her former home.

Ptomaine poisoning affected eighty people at the annual Sunday-school picnic of the Meek's church at Fairbrook which was being held at Erb Gap, near Pine Grove Mills, Saturday a week ago. A number of the victims became violently ill and a hurried call for physicians at State College and Pine Grove Mills was sent. The doctors were busy for several hours going from house to house administering antidotes to counteract the poison. No fatalities occurred. Most of the picnicers were of the opinion that ice cream, purchased at Tyrone, was the cause of the wholesale poisoning.

The State College boro treasury was enriched to a substantial amount last week when fines and costs of thirteen autoists who failed to have the tail lights on their cars burning. The use of cut-outs and speeding have also proved expensive to those who dared violate the ordinances in these matters. State College is striving for safety first and other boro, including Centre Hall, had better take similar action before a life is sacrificed to the demon speed and then resort to the locking-the-stable-after-the-horse-is-stolen step. Better be careful than sorry.