



### COUNTY JAILS MAY BE ABOLISHED.

State to be Divided into Six Districts. Each to Have a Correctional Institution and Farm.

A bill to abolish county jails throughout the state and to establish six sectional farms, each self-sustaining, and providing compensation for the prisoners to be used in support of their dependents, will be introduced in the house of representatives at Harrisburg.

The bill was originally drafted by the special commission on the revision and amendment of penal laws, appointed by Governor Tener. Since that time the wording of the bill has been somewhat revised. It will be placed before the legislature by Representative A. B. Hess, of Lancaster.

Edwin M. Abbott is the chairman of the committee which drew up the bill. It is backed by the Prison society of Philadelphia.

The bill provides for the establishment of six correctional institutions. These would be known as the Pennsylvania State Farm of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and the sixth district.

The creation of a commission of five to be appointed by the governor to select suitable sites for the farms is provided for. Upon the selection of such sites, the bill provides that the governor appoint a board of trustees for each of the institutions.

For the purchase of land on which to erect the buildings the bill provides for the appropriation of \$200,000. Of this \$2,000 is to be available on June 1; balance on January 1st, 1918.

Another measure under way provides that workhouses and factories be established in connection with every jail, with a view of obliging prisoners to support themselves. This measure is being prepared by Judge Isaac Johnson, of the Delaware county courts, whose idea is to pay wages for the work done and to give the money to those dependent upon the prisoners for support. If there are no dependents, the money is to be used to pay the costs of the prosecution against the prisoner, the remainder, if any, to be paid to him upon his release from the jail.

### Italians Captured at Potters Mills Wanted for Murder.

Two Italians—Lodis Degli, aged 24, and Dan Alexandro, aged 25—were captured at Potters Mills on Sunday evening by a Millin county officer who was after them in connection with the murder of Fred Ross, another Italian, which occurred four hours previous to their capture at Nagnyney. They were lodged in the Millin county jail.

The murdered Italian with another had been "cutting up" about the home of Alexandro since Saturday night, after being refused admittance. The bad feeling engendered broke out in the flash of steel the next morning in a preliminary scrap but the real fight did not materialize until about three o'clock when Degli whipped out a revolver and fired several shots in the air. Ross thought the bullets were meant for him and pulling his stiletto took a hand in the fray but was soon worsted, being cut about the head and hands so that he died from loss of blood before reaching the Lewistown hospital.

### To Assist Farmers Secure Help.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles E. Patton will make a determined effort to help the farmers of the State to secure farm help during the coming season and would like to have requests for farm labor filed with him at the Department of Agriculture at Harrisburg at any time.

Through the agency of the State Employment Bureau there is from time to time plenty of available help for the farms and during the coming summer an effort will be made to interest undergraduates of colleges and high schools in farm work as a means of earning vacation money. At the present wage that farm help is commanding the college man could earn a considerable sum during the busy season on the farm and there many propositions that could be opened to such men by progressive farmers that would make farm work quite attractive for the summer. On many farms much of the fruit is now left to go to waste for want of help to harvest and pack it. With the proposed Bureau of Markets in service at the Department of Agriculture and the young college and school boys employed on the farms and given time to attend to the fruit or garden and on a commission, the farmer would have an opportunity to market much of the produce that has heretofore been almost a total loss.

Secretary Patton would like to hear from all farmers desiring help and from college and high school boys who are willing to try farm work as a means of earning vacation money during the coming summer.

Good Printing at the Reporter office.

### PROVIDING FOR ABSENT VOTERS.

Measure Introduced by Democrat Would Extend the Voting Privilege Without Appearing at the Pole, in Person.

The proposition to enable voters, necessarily absent from their voting districts on election day, to cast their ballots, nevertheless, will strike the average Pennsylvanian as somewhat revolutionary. But it has common sense and even precedent in a few of the western States to recommend it. The bill has been introduced in the present legislature by a Democratic representative from Dauphin county, which may be considered a sufficient reason for the majority of the members to vote against it because of its origin. No good reason for opposition otherwise readily suggests itself.

There has been a general regret expressed after every election over the apparent careless regard in which a large number of qualified voters hold their right to suffrage. The inference and the regret over it arises from their omission to cast a ballot, and the tendency is increasing rather than on the wane, except at times of unusual interest aroused in local contests. At the same time there is a tendency to multiply elections for the purpose of testing the popular will in accordance with the theory of the government.

It may easily be seen that a measure such as that proposed, by which those who are unable to appear in person at the polls, may still cast a vote, will correct this tendency. There are no insuperable obstacles in the way, nor is it apt to increase the expense of holding elections. With all the machinery required by assessing registers and voting in these late days, reasonable safeguards would insure the absent voter against fraud or mistake, and leave him no excuse short of absolute disregard of his rights of citizenship to urge for his omission.

The proposed measure was born of actual experience with difficulties observed in following a vocation that takes its author daily away from his home district, and it may offer a solution for the elections being frequently carried by a minority of the qualified voters. The suggestion contains enough of prospective value to be worth experimenting with and as an experiment it may recommend itself to a legislature that is prone to experiments after they have been carefully examined as to their effect on the "party vote."

A. N. Runkle Writes from California.  
Editor Reporter:

Enclosed find money order for \$1.50 for the paper for one year. I am always glad to receive the Reporter for it tells me all about home and the folks I used to know some sixty years ago. I just stepped over in my sixty-fourth year on the 8th, yet the people tell me I look and act like a man not half so old. Well, to tell the truth, I never expect to get old even if I should live to see 100 years. You know the saying, as a man thinks in his heart so is he. I was glad to see the pictures of Prof. Krise and wife in your paper. It took me back to the time he and I had charge of the Centre Hall school. My, that is a long time ago.

We had the coldest winter this year and more rain right through than we had for at least thirty years. Lots of snow up in the mountains. It made business good, although the prices for everything are high. All our hotels are full all the time; more houses have been built this year than for a long time; people are just beginning to realize that we have the best city and climate in the world but we can't all live here, yet hundreds of people come here each year and a good per cent. of them finally stay, buy a country home and build all the way from a \$10,000 to \$80,000 home, and if you come out here I will be glad to take you out and show you some of the finest homes you ever saw.

Yours respectfully,  
A. N. RUNKLE.  
Santa Barbara, Calif., Feb. 14, 1917.

### Huge Commercial Orchard Planned at State College.

A sixty acre fruit farm with the complete equipment of a commercial orchard is planned for the department of horticulture at the Pennsylvania State College. The new orchard supplementing the present experimental tract is to be established to enable students in the various horticultural courses to obtain practical instruction in modern methods of fruit growing.

According to the plans of Dr. E. W. Fleisher, head of the Horticultural department, the State College orchard will be planted to apple, peach, pear, plum and other tree fruits. Small fruits, strawberries, raspberries and grapes will also be planted. A large packing house is to be part of the equipment.

The Bellefonte Lodge, I. O. O. F., Bellefonte, will become forty-three years old tomorrow (Friday) night, and will celebrate the event by giving a banquet.

### FROM NORTH DAKOTA.

Mr. Zerby Tells of a Fierce Blizzard Beginning of February—Some Nimble Man at 79.

In a letter to the Reporter William Zerby, of Lisbon, Ransom county, North Dakota, refers to a real blizzard in this fashion:

"Let me give you a few facts concerning the most severe blizzard this section of country experienced in twenty five years—a blizzard an Irishman would refer to as a 'blizzard b'—"

The storm came on February 4th and continued for twenty-four hours. The trains were all snow bound and travelers were detained along the way. A number of passengers were entertained at the Bedford hotel, in Lisbon, for five days at which time the trains were able to proceed on their way.

Two serious accidents were caused by the blizzard—one of freezing to death, the other of burning. Twelve miles up the Schoevey river, at Fort Ransom, Sunday morning, the opening of the blizzard, Matthias Olson went to the barn, which was quite a distance from the house, got lost in the storm, and at two o'clock in the afternoon was found frozen to death. He was seventy years old.

At about the same time of the above accident, Mrs. Kevello, in Lisbon, had quite a dissimilar experience. She went to the basement to remove the cinders from the furnace, when her clothing caught fire. She was burned so badly that death resulted a few days later.

Let me indulge a bit on the reader's patience to say in nice weather I go to town along the river to the Methodist church and back every Sunday, a trip of a good six miles, without tiring, and can kick as high as my head (six feet six inches) because I am as nimble as a school marm. How is that, Mr. Editor, for a boy of seventy-nine.

With these remarks I extend my sincere regards to my native people in Old Pennsylvania."

### Dies at 100 Years of Age.

Mrs. Elizabeth Detwiler Brown, Blair county's oldest woman and known far and wide as "Grandmother" Brown, died Wednesday last week, at her home in Holidayburg, aged 100 years, 2 months and 5 days. Death, which came on the 51st anniversary of her wedding day, was due to disease incident to age.

Mrs. Brown was a native of Franklin county. She was a member of the Lutheran church, and deeply religious.

### BETTER TEACHERS FOR THE RURAL SCHOOLS.

(By J. L. McBrien, School Extension Agent, U. S. Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior.)

TALK THREE

With the eloquent and logical plea of J. Sterling Morton for professionally trained teachers still ringing in our ears it is a good time to consider the views of a prominent man who saw this question in a different light. This man served his State and country in many posts of honor. He was a man of means. His character was above reproach. It is hard to understand how a man of such ability, integrity and experience could hold such erroneous views as he did on the preparations of teachers for their work. After all the positions of honor which he had held, he was elected a member of the State normalate. There was but one State normal then (1901) in that State. A fight was on in the Legislature to establish one additional State normal school, on which occasion, this Nestor of the Senate declared: God Almighty makes teachers; you can no more make teachers at a normal school than you can make whistles out of pigs' tails at a butcher shop; we have too much education of the head already; educate the heels."

This is so utterly absurd as to merit pity rather than censure of him who was the author of this declaration. God Almighty no more makes teachers than he makes lawyers or doctors. Training and experience makes the teachers.

And so thought the people of the State in which this good mistaken man lived. The normal school idea has made such a growth in that State since this good man's declaration against it until now there are four great State normal schools there with splendid facilities and liberally supported by the State.

Probably the most advanced opinion yet advocated by any man of prominence to-day in favor of professionally trained teachers and State normal schools is that of the United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. P. P. Claxton. Briefly stated it is this:

A six months' term of school with a professionally trained teacher at a salary of \$100 per month is a longer term and a better and cheaper school than a twelve months' term with a teacher of poor scholarship and no professional

### Centre County Y. W. C. A. Notes.

The Bellefonte High School Club had a Valentine Post Office at the High School Building on Valentine's Day. Two cents postage required on all articles mailed or received from the mail, and the clerks were kept busy distributing messages. At the same time candy and punch were sold, and the Club cleared over \$10.00.

Mothers' Night is the next thing on the State College High School Club program.

The Howard council has planned some interesting meetings for the next few months, including a talk on decoration, a couple of demonstrations, a reception when a new room is entered, sewing and Bible study, and some unique social plans. A new feature of this year's work will be two committees; the devotional committee will have charge of arranging a variety of interesting openings for meetings, and a surprise committee will furnish something of interest at the close of each meeting. The Council has also asked that a Deputation of college girls come for a weeks end talk over with some of the things of special importance to girls.

When you are sewing or walking or doing things that do not occupy all your attention, what do you think about? Some people fill their minds with good poems they can remember at such times, and that help them in daily living. Don't you like this second verse to the poem "Work".

Work!  
Thank God for the pride of it,  
For the beautiful, conquering tide of it,  
Sweeping the life in its furious flood,  
Thrilling the arteries, cleansing blood,  
Mastering stupor and dull despair,  
Moving the dreamer to do and care,  
Oh, what is so good as the urge of it,  
And what is so strong as the summons deep,  
Rousing the torpid soul from sleep?

### F. H. Meyer Stricken With Paralysis.

Ex-commissioner Philip H. Meyer suffered a paralytic stroke, Wednesday last week, which affected his entire left side and rendered him practically helpless. At the present time his condition is very little improved. His son, Robert Meyer, was called home from Altoona, and is assisting in caring for his father.

Mr. Meyer's many friends trust that he may speedily recover so that he may again mingle with them and discuss the various issues of the day.

### Mrs. William Blitting Died in the Williamsport Hospital Wednesday of Last Week After a Short Illness from Pneumonia.

The corpse was shipped to Centre Hall on Friday and burial was made in the local cemetery on Saturday, Rev. W. H. Williams officiating. The deceased was Carrie Taylor, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, both deceased, and was born near Tusseyville twenty years ago. Her husband survives but no children. A number of brothers and sisters also survive.

Samuel Fisher Snyder, a machinist in the Beyer company mills, died suddenly at his home in Tyrone. He was the husband of Miss Agnes McCormick, daughter of the late James McCormick, their marriage having taken place at Centre Hall in 1874, while the McCormicks lived on the Van Valsah farm, now owned by C. D. Bartholomew. His age was seventy-three years. Mrs. Snyder and two children survive.

Mrs. Ellen Woods, wife of Scott Woods, died in Phillipsburg. Her maiden name was Miss Ellen Stine and was born in Half Moon Valley. Her age was sixty-eight years.

Dr. Thomas Tobin, well known in the western portion of Centre county, died at his home in Tyrone, while preparing a prescription for a patient. He was aged sixty-two years.

### Glee Club To Make Record.

The male quartet of the Pennsylvania State College glee club has arranged with the Edison Phonograph Company to sing selections for several records. C. C. Robinson, Penn State's musical director, will have the club sing for record while they are in New York City for the annual Intercollegiate Glee Club Contest, March 3.

Sunday was a delightful day, a balmy air being suggestive of real spring weather. The thermometer rose to 46 degrees and made us nearly forget that only a week ago the 0 mark was being courted rather strenuously.

(Continued on inside page.)

### THOMAS C. BARTGES DEAD.

Passes Away Thursday Morning After Great Suffering, Aged 40 Years.—Other Deaths.

After two weeks' intense suffering from catarrh of the stomach and bowels, Thomas Clayton Bartges passed into the last sleep at ten o'clock Thursday morning of last week at his home about a mile west of Centre Hall, on the Bartges farm. For more than two years Mr. Bartges had been a sufferer from this ailment and performed the laborious duties of the farm when he was scarcely physically able to do so. This coming spring would have been three years since he moved on his parents' farm.

Thomas Clayton Bartges was a son of Mr. and Mrs. David L. Bartges, who live retired in Centre Hall. He was born in Madisonburg and at the time of his death was aged forty years, six months and two days. Besides his parents he is survived by his wife, who was a Miss Miller, two children by a former marriage—Mrs. J. E. Thornton, of Los Angeles, California; and Miss Ruth Bartges, of Centre Hall—as well as one sister, Mrs. W. A. Reiter, of Johnstown. He was a member of Trinity Reformed Church, of Centre Hall; a member of Centre Hall Lodge, No. 895, I. O. O. F., and also Progress Grange, P. of H. He was well known throughout the county and was a popular young man whose untimely death is mourned by many.

The funeral, which was held on Monday morning, was very large. Brief services were held at the house and continued in the Reformed church the edifice being filled to its capacity. Rev. R. R. Jones, pastor of the deceased, was in charge, and at the cemetery the last rites were performed by the Odd Fellows, who attended the funeral in a body.

Mrs. Pearl Larke Brooks, a daughter of Commissioner William H. Noll, died at her home, 2025 Ninth street, Altoona, Saturday at noon, of a complication of diseases. She was born at Pleasant Gap and on October 17, 1907, was wedded to Paul P. Brooks, who is manager of the Brooks & Co. music store in Altoona, and who survives with her father and these brothers and sisters: Ralph and Ray Noll, both of Pleasant Gap; Lee, of Perkin, Ill.; Mrs. Paul Keller, Altoona; Emeline, Helen, Beatrice, June and Ethel, all of Pleasant Gap. An infant son, Donald Paul, died two weeks ago. Mrs. Brooks was a member of the Bellefonte Reformed church. Private funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at her late home, followed by burial in Rose Hill cemetery.

Mrs. William Blitting died in the Williamsport hospital Wednesday of last week after a short illness from pneumonia. The corpse was shipped to Centre Hall on Friday and burial was made in the local cemetery on Saturday, Rev. W. H. Williams officiating. The deceased was Carrie Taylor, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, both deceased, and was born near Tusseyville twenty years ago. Her husband survives but no children. A number of brothers and sisters also survive.

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### TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

#### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Arthur Fortney, of near State College, will tenant the D. J. Meyer farm, near Linden Hall, in the spring.

The Spring Mills lodge of Odd Fellows will hold their annual banquet tonight, in Grange hall, at Spring Mills.

Frank Walker will turn farmer April 1st, having leased the farm of his father-in-law, Alfred Keen, south of Millheim.

It is just a few days until the March sales begin. Judging from the sales already held, everything put on the block will go at top prices.

Corn at the Yarnell sale, at Linden Hall, brought \$1.20 for seventy pounds. Some price that for the golden ears. Who wouldn't be a farmer, anyway?

Miss Ruth Ruble spent a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ruble, and on Friday left for Cleveland, Ohio, where she will stay with her grandmother, Mrs. L. W. Ruble.

A large number of the poles for the extension of the electric light line from Centre Hall to Millheim are being furnished by L. L. Weaver, of Woodward, who is now delivering them.

A new liquor restriction bill has been introduced in the state legislature transferring the duty of passing on license applications from the courts to the county commissioners. Such a step would be no nearer the solution of the liquor question.

President Wilson's plan to cut postmasters of all classes under civil service does not appeal very strongly to members of the house of representatives. When the question came before the house a few days ago it was voted down by the very decisive majority of 284 to 43.

The fear of war with a foreign foe may result in the passage of the Webb-Sheppard National Prohibition bill by the present congress. Profiting by the errors of foreign countries, the National Government is aiming to dispose of this important question before war is declared rather than after hostilities begin.

The Government is in need of a number of medical men, between the ages of twenty-three and thirty-two years, to become assistant surgeons in the U. S. Public Health Service. The salary is \$2000 per year, with opportunities for advancement. For further information write to the U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

The youngster in one of the Milesburg schools who defines "natural" as meaning "what we look like when we are dead," no doubt got the inspiration from the expression of the colored man who when chided for running from a scrap, said he would sooner be called a coward than have his friends gather around him and say, "don't be look natural!"

The Boal Machine Gun Troop, under the leadership of Lieutenant Theodore Davis Boal, went through their first drill since their return from the Mexican border, on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, on Lieut. Boal's estate at Boalsburg. The government has issued a general order, for stated drills for the lately returned troops and every two weeks Lieut. Boal's boys will be required to meet at Boalsburg for drill. The first drill was performed under great difficulties owing to much mud and water.

In making a remittance to the Reporter, A. S. Fleck, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., writes that they are experiencing a very severe winter in that portion of New York, the thermometer having registered as low as twelve degrees below zero, and quite frequently at the zero mark. Mr. Fleck is interested in the sale of the Hurd whiffletree, which is constructed with a view to remedy the damage done by the ordinary whiffletree while cultivating orchards, etc. Any one who might be willing to give a bit of his time to the sale of such an important item on the farm would do well to write Mr. Fleck, 1967 Whitney Avenue, Niagara Falls.

Rev. J. H. Keller, pastor of Mt. Zion and St. Paul's Reformed churches, China Grove, North Carolina, in writing the Reporter says among other things: "The past year has been a pleasant and profitable one. Have purchased a farm of 180 acres of land near my home town and hope to entertain some of my northern friends. A short time ago I attended the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina and while in Raleigh assisted as Chaplain in closing in due form Hiram Lodge, No. 40, which duty should have been done on Monday night following the assassination of President Lincoln. Will explain when I see you."