

One Centre Reporter.

VOL. XC.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1917

NO. 12

ONE PENNSYLVANIA FARM THAT IS BOUND TO PAY.

It is Located in Centre County and as 5000 Acres.—The 500 Men Who Till It Are Not Farmers.

The farm in question is in Centre county, near Bellefonte. It is a whopping big farm for this part of the country—some 5000 acres. Much is woodland. Of the part under cultivation 350 acres were in wheat last season, 250 acres in hay, 230 in oats, 145 in corn, 130 in potatoes and 19 in rye. There was a garden covering 65 acres and a pasture of 170 acres. Ten acres was given over to a nursery.

These crops and fields were cared for last year by more than 500 men. Most of these men are not farmers. Originally, they were members of every trade, profession and calling—and some of them never had any training or experience in business.

In addition to farming the place they helped put up the buildings—big buildings of concrete. Already several of these structures are finished, and they present a fine appearance. When the whole is completed several years hence, Pennsylvania will have the most modern—and humane—of all state prisons in existence.

For this farm is one great prison! Six years ago, addressing the legislature in support of the bill providing for this great change, Warden J. M. Francis, of the Western Penitentiary, who had been a chief sponsor of the proposed legislation, said of the possibilities of such a place:

The inmates could do all the work on the great prison farm planned, thereby virtually supporting themselves, and making the prison largely, if not entirely, self-sustaining, thus relieving the counties of the taxation now levied on them. The prisoners work all day surrounded by nature and with plenty of outdoor exercise, be greatly improved mentally, morally and physically, and you could teach them something of value, instead of turning them out as you do at present, having failed to teach them anything whereby they can earn an honest living and support themselves. They would learn practical and everyday farming and be able to secure employment anywhere at the expiration of their sentence.

Today, with the project well under way this prophecy is being carried out. And already it has become evident to observers that the change is going to be productive of vast benefits. Already it is being made manifest that correction and not punishment is the more profitable measure, both for the offender and for society.

A recent writer in the Joliet Prison Post thus views the experiment:

The building of the penitentiary is a daring experiment. Warden Francis has been termed an idealist and an enthusiast. He looks forward to the day when it will be a model prison—a prison whose great buildings were erected by prisoners who were driven to their tasks. He plans a great farm that will bring men in touch with growing things and that will enable them to live close to the soil. And when their term has been completed, Warden Francis plans to send men forth who have been well fed, who have been well housed, who are strong and fit and sturdy—men who will be capable of taking care of themselves, who can step into the industrial line unmarked by prison pallor and strong instead of weak, because of their prison life.

It will be the place where men who have slipped, can take a brace and get a fresh grip on life and on themselves. And all about them, instead of the great city that has sinned against them and against which they had sinned, there will be the great outdoors, the green hills and the blue sky with the sun, moon and stars. And above all else, there will be the great community created by prisoners in order that they might mark out a trail to new freedom.

Warden Francis believes that men are pretty much alike, fundamentally. The prison farmer boasts of his wheat fields and takes pride in his truck patch, just the same way any other farmer does. And by doing things he likes to do the prisoner comes to respect himself as a workman and to realize that an acre of land and knowledge means economic independence.

And of course, while he is building, Warden Francis will keep a close record of the repeaters. Up to the present time the story is that when men leave the Western Penitentiary they do not come back. The world gains a worker and the prison loses one. And that, says Warden Francis, is what prisons are for.

How our ideas are changing! Once we thought of prisons as nothing but places where the most brutal punishment should be visited on men and women who have done wrong. It never occurred to any one in those

NEW BOOKS IN GRANGE LIBRARY.

Are for the Free Use of Everyone in Community.—Popular Fiction by Noted Author.

The Pennsylvania Free Library Commission has issued a new consignment of books to Progress Grange library, which are for the free use of the public. These books cover many classes of literature and are written by noted authors. The Grange library will be open every Saturday afternoon at three o'clock for the convenience of the public. The titles of the books and names of the authors are appended:

- Jack Sheppard.....Almworth
- My Boys.....Alcott
- Rose in Bloom.....Alcott
- Marjory Daw.....Aldrich
- Eben Holden.....Bacheller
- Hand of Compulsion.....Barr
- All in a Garden Fair.....Beant
- Comrades in Service.....Burton
- Line of Love.....Cabell
- Young Macedonian.....Church
- Coniston.....Churchill
- Common-Sense in Religion.....Clarke
- Not Quite Eighteen.....Coolidge
- Down the Snow Stairs.....Corkran
- Waylators.....Cutting
- Indian History.....Drake
- Norway.....Edgeworth
- Holland, Belgium and Denmark.....George
- Eye Spy.....Gibson
- Strange Stories of 1812.....Henderson
- When London Burned.....Homer
- Blind for Boys and Girls.....Homer
- Lady Jane.....Jamison
- Norway.....Jamison
- Comrades in Arms.....Jamison
- King Poems of American Patriotism.....Knowles
- Fairy tales every child should know.....Mabie
- Brothers of the Coast.....Munroe
- Our Nation in the Building.....Nicotry
- Vespucci.....Ogden
- Little Home Spin.....Ogden
- Man of mark.....Oxenham
- Passers-by.....Partridge
- Pemberton.....Peterson
- Jane Stuart—Twin.....Remick
- Good Men and True.....Rhodes
- Lovey Mary.....Ride
- Hearts Courageous.....Rives
- Uncle Sam and his Children.....Shaw
- Adventures of Joel Pepper.....Sidney
- Spirit of American Government.....Smith
- Stories of middle ages retold from St Nicholas
- All about Inventions and Discoveries.....Talbot
- Life of Dorothea Lynde Dix.....Tiffany
- Scouting with Kit Carson.....Tomlinson
- Diantha.....Tompkins
- Fenwick's Career.....Welch
- Little Dauphin.....Welch
- At the Sign of the Sphinx.....Wells
- Soils and Soil Fertility.....Whitson

FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION.

"As we anticipated, there seems to be persistent effort here in the east to belittle the need of Federal Farm Loan banks. Not only have most of the city dailies been hostile to their establishment, but the country weeklies have quite generally thrown cold water upon the project. It does not require a high power microscope to find the reason for this opposition; the argument always heard is that the present banking system is amply sufficient to take care of all the farm loans asked for. A certain county Farm Bureau was recently appealed to for its aid in the formation of a Farm Loan Association. The request was turned down and the above reason was given. On this peculiar Bureau Board are three stock holders in national banks, and a bank cashier. It may be that it is not a proper activity for a Farm Bureau, but if farm bureaus are to perform the services most needed by farmers they must be managed by men who have no interest above that of the advancement of agriculture."

The above is reprint from the Pennsylvania Farmer, a newspaper that is doing much for the advancement of the farmers and a long earnest advocate of farm loan associations.

Just across the Centre county line, in Clearfield county, the farm loans law was discussed at a meeting of the Clearfield County Farm Bureau, and the report came to the newspaper that "the consensus of opinions seemed to be that at the present time farmers in this (Clearfield) county could probably secure as good accommodations from our local banks with less red tape."

Judging from long range, one must come to the conclusion that the participants in this discussion farm by proxy.

These who oppose the establishment of Farm Loan Associations should be confronted with these questions:

1. Will the present banking institutions grant equally low rates?
2. Will they give equally long time—5, 10, 20, 40 years without the trouble of frequent renewals?
3. Will they loan on first mortgage without the endorsement of a freeholder?
4. Will they arrange for payment on the amortization plan, that is, payment of a specified amount including interest annually or semi-annually?

There are three billions of dollars in farm loans in this country. If the interest rate could be reduced but one per cent. thru the Farm Loan system, it would mean an annual saving to farmers of 30 million dollars.

Centre Reporter, \$1.50 per year.

A 77 Year-Old Business.

When Frank M. Fisher sold what remained of his store stock after having reduced that stock considerably with a view to closing out the business, to Messrs. A. Sterling and S. Ottenberg, on Monday, there came to an end a mercantile business that stands alone in Centre county in point of consecutive years of business dealing. Three generations of the Fisher family are covered in the span of seventy-seven years that marks the alpha and omega of the enterprise.

Back in 1840 Adam Fisher came up from Berks county and settled at Penn Hall, opening a small store in that place. At the end of two years his son, the late Major Jared Fisher, then only sixteen years of age, took the reins and guided the destinies of the business through an uninterrupted period of fifty-three years. Upon his death, in 1895, the business devolved upon the sons and after another period of twenty-two years Frank M. Fisher finally decided to lay aside the cares of merchandising and close out the stand. The store while always having proved a money-making proposition, reached the heyday of its existence in the 60's, when there was but one store in Spring Mills and only two or three in Millheim. A great volume of business was done at the Penn Hall store during the days of the Rebellion and the periods immediately preceding and following it.

Mr. Fisher, as was stated in these columns some time ago, has purchased the Dr. H. F. Bitner property in Centre Hall and will become a citizen of this place in the spring of 1918.

Letter from Ohio.
Bellevue, Ohio, Mar. 13, 1917.

Editor Reporter:
Owing to change of our address from R. F. D. 4 Bellevue to R. F. D. 3 Clyde, Ohio, we had occasion to write you and also for renewal of our good old home paper.

Just a few lines to tell you how Seneca county, Ohio, is at the present time and how prices are. The winter was a cold one but not an extra amount of sleighing but plenty of snow heaped along the road in spots. Wheat looks fairly well so far.

Here are some of the market prices here: Wheat sells at \$1.90; oats, 81c; rye, \$1.20; ear corn, \$1.51 per cwt; hay, \$10.00; butter, 30c; eggs, 25c; potatoes, \$2.75; hogs \$14.10 per cwt. and calves \$10.50.

DAVID G. SMETZLER.

\$2,000,000 from Auto Licenses.

Some time this week total receipts from 1917 automobile licenses will pass the \$2,000,000 mark, according to officials of the state highway department.

The first half of March closed with total receipts for 1917 licenses standing at \$1,988,458, compared with \$1,384,387 for the corresponding date in 1916. License receipts now are ranging between \$7000 and \$10,000 a day.

When the \$2,000,000 mark is reached this year will be at least two and one-half months ahead of last year. Total receipts for 1916 licenses crossed the unprecedented mark of \$2,000,000 on June 11 last year.

A total of 278,268 licenses of all kinds have been issued this year. They include the 165,070 air-tired cars; 11,416 solid tired; 557 tractors; 350 trailers; 7499 motorcycles; 38,049 paid drivers; 71 tractor drivers; 5988 dealers; 42 tractor operators; 46,382 non-paid operators; 80 tractor operators; 514 duplicates and transfers.

Bellefonte Couple Re-Marry.

Announcement has been made of the re-marriage of J. Lynn Harris, of Bellefonte and Mrs. Marie A. Polagrove Harris, of Carlisle. The wedding took place on March 6th, at Bel Air, Md., the ceremony being performed by Rev. B. W. Kändler. Mr. and Mrs. Harris will be at home at Carlisle after May 15th. Contrary to expectations, Mr. Harris will not resign as chairman of the Republican county committee of Centre county, in the near future, as he expects to spend a day or two every week in Bellefonte for an indefinite time.

When Lieut. Pierre Boal leaves for France on Saturday of this week, he will be accompanied by Harry Fisher, of Bellefonte, who has been in the service of the United States Navy for the past four years. Both he and Lieut. Boal will be connected with the French aviation corps.

Pleasant Gap.

Mrs. Harry Bilger entertained the sewing circle last Wednesday evening. Miss Mary McCliney spent the week end with her cousin at Millburg. Mrs. William Irvin is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Campbell at Tyrone. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sampsel and two daughters of Roopersburg visited over Sunday with friends at this place. Miss Almada Powell spent the week end with her mother at Yarnell.

FOREST FIRE REPORT.

Only Half as Large Area Burned Over in 1916 as Year Before.—47 Fires in Centre County Between April and December.

The report covering the spring and fall forest fire season of 1916, issued today by the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry, shows that while almost as many forest fires burned over in Pennsylvania in 1916 as in 1915, the area burned over was less than half that of 1915, and the timber loss was only a trifle over one-fourth as large. In 1915, 1,101 forest fires burned over 338,633 acres, with a resulting timber loss of \$850,700; in 1916, 1,013 fires burned 154,752 acres, and the timber loss was only \$226,200. Less than three per cent of the area in State Forest was burned over in 1916.

As usual, railroads and campers head the list of causes, with 270 and 182 fires respectively to their discredit. Brush burning on dry days caused fifty-five fires; ninety-five were of incendiary origin; carelessly conducted lumbering operations caused forty-four; ten were caused by lightning; and forty-five were caused by miscellaneous agencies, such as children playing with matches. The cause of 312 fires are unknown.

Further changes are being made from time to time in the list of fire wardens. The State will be thoroughly covered township by township, and wardens will be appointed wherever there is enough forest area to justify appointment. The greater part of the State has been covered in this way already, and over 1,500 wardens are now on the roster, in addition to the force of foresters and rangers.

CENTRE COUNTY FIRES.

The tabulations for Centre county show that forty-seven fires burned within the county between April 17th and December 8th. About 9,100 acres of forest land were burned over, with a resulting loss of about \$8,200. Centre stands fourth in number of fires and acreage burned.

Fourteen of the fires were caused by sparks from locomotives, three by brush burning on dry or windy days, nine by careless campers, twelve by miscellaneous agencies, and the cause of nine are unknown.

The largest single fire wholly within Centre county covered 3,550 acres in Haines and Miles townships, did damage estimated at \$3,000, and was set by fishermen who evidently did not know or care that burned forests mean fewer trout. The second largest fire covered 1,400 acres in Harris and Ferguson townships, but was part of the fire which also burned 4,200 acres in Huntingdon county.

Altogether, there is very little to be proud of in Centre county's forest fire record. One of the very bright spots is in the work done by Central Pennsylvania Forest Protective Association. In the territory covered by this body twenty-eight fires were extinguished before they covered a hundred acres. In view of the size of the other fires in Centre county, this is a very good record.

Henrick-Goodhart.

A pretty wedding took place at the Dickinson Presbyterian Mause, at Carlisle, last Thursday at 4 p. m. The contracting parties were John Edwin Henrick, of Sparks, Nevada, and Miss Margaret Irvin Goodhart, of Centre Hall. The bride wore blue crepe de chine and looked beautiful. The groom wore the conventional black. The pretty ring ceremony of the Presbyterian church was used. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. James J. Glenn, and the officiating clergyman was the latter's husband.

The groom is a son of Mrs. Mary A. Henrick, until recently a resident of Centre Hall. The bride is a daughter of Mary J. Goodhart, of this place. Mr. and Mrs. Henrick will spend some time visiting relatives in the east, after which they will go to Sparks, Nevada, where the groom has resided for some years. Later they will go to Little Rock Arkansas, where they will probably purchase a residence and make their permanent home. They have the best wishes of their many friends.

Civil Service Extended.

All postmaster appointments—first, second, third as well as the fourth class—will be under civil service regulations after April 1st, owing to an order issued by the President. The details have not yet been given to the public, but no doubt soon will be.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces that on Saturday, March 24, 1917, an examination will be held in Bellefonte as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth class postmaster at Pleasant Gap. The compensation of postmaster at this office was \$474 for the last fiscal year.

CLARENCE LONG DEAD.

Proprietor of Rebersburg Hotel Dies After Lingering Illness.—Other Deaths.

Clarence E. Long, proprietor of the Rebersburg hotel, died on Tuesday morning after a lingering illness of three months. Ten weeks ago he became bedfast and never gained sufficient strength to leave it. He was the only son of Jesse and Martha Long, deceased, and was born October 20, 1872, hence was aged forty-four years and five months. He was married to Miss Sara Breon, who survives with one daughter, Marguerite. Two sisters—Mrs. W. J. Walker and Mrs. S. T. Miller, both of Rebersburg, survive.

The funeral services will be held on Saturday morning at ten o'clock, Rev. Bunselcker, his pastor, and Rev. Metzgar to officiate. Burial at Rebersburg.

Mrs. Polly Roseman, widow of David Roseman, died on Sunday morning at her home on Nittany mountain as the result of a paralytic stroke which she suffered Friday morning previous, rendering her unconscious and remaining in that state until death came. Before marriage she was Miss Polly Roush and was born at Madisontown eighty years, nine months and nineteen days ago. Her husband preceded her to the grave three years ago. Eight children survive, namely, J. C. Roseman, of Centre Hall; Henry, of Howell, Michigan; M. C., of State College; William, of Pleasant Gap; Mr. George Markel, of Linden Hall; Geo. W., Mrs. Robert Campbell, of Pennsylvania Furnace; Mr. Harry Houser, of Colons.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday morning and burial made at Pleasant Gap. Rev. McKee, of the M. E. church, of which the deceased was a member, had charge of the service.

Lewis Menech, a Civil war veteran and one of the oldest citizens in lower Penna Valley, died at his home in Aaronsburg on Saturday as the result of a paralytic stroke sustained Wednesday night previous. He was aged eighty-four years, eight months and eight days. The deceased was born in Northumberland county and was a son of Christian and Sarah Hersh Menech. He was united in marriage with Sarah Herter in Aaronsburg on December 24, 1867, by Rev. A. C. Felker. Mrs. Menech and three children survive, namely, R. W. Menech, of Aaronsburg; Charles F. Menech, of Bellefonte, and H. H. Menech, of Sadsbury. Also four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Two sisters are also left: Mrs. Hannah Strickler, Millburg, and Mrs. John Klingman, of Ebensburg.

Rev. M. D. Geesey, of the Lutheran church, had charge of the funeral services which were held on Wednesday morning, burial being made in the Lutheran cemetery in Aaronsburg.

Mrs. Judith Bierly, widow of Joseph Bierly, died last Thursday at her home in Rebersburg, aged eighty-one years, eleven months and twenty-five days. She was the mother of two children, H. E., at home and Rev. Edwin of Union, New York. Her life was of the quiet, unassuming Christian type and she was faithful and loyal to the church of her choice. Rev. D. C. Caris officiated at the funeral service on Monday, assisted by Rev. Womelsdorf of the Evangelical and Rev. Metzgar of the Lutheran church. Burial was made at Rebersburg. Two brothers survive Hon. Henry Meyer of Rebersburg, and Daniel, of Dakota, Illinois.

Mrs. Nora M. Bright, wife of John W. Bright, of Rebersburg, died at the Lock Haven hospital on Monday at 8 o'clock a. m. Thursday of last week she went to the hospital for an operation which proved apparently successful, but on Sunday evening a telephone message reached her husband informing him of her serious condition and that she was to come at once to her bedside. He reached there several hours before she died. She was conscious to the end. In the very prime of life she was taken away, aged 32 years. The husband and two small children survive. She was a daughter of the late Luther Klinefelter and Annie E., his wife, now married to James Ziegler, of Rebersburg. She was a member of the United Evangelical church. Rev. Womelsdorf, her pastor, will officiate at the burial, interment to be made this (Thursday) morning in the Union cemetery at Rebersburg.

Government Seeds.

The Reporter received a consignment of government seeds last week which it will gladly give to those who will call for them, while the lot lasts. The seeds include beet, lettuce, cucumber, radish and endive.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

A real patriot is a man who plants potatoes.

Frank M. Fisher, of Penn Hall, was a visitor in town last Thursday.

George Boozer is home from the Mercersburg academy for a week's vacation.

Bruce Stahl spent a week with his brothers, Claude K. and Asher C. Stahl, in Altoona.

Grange hall was the scene of a big dance on Friday evening. A number of State College people were present.

County Superintendent D. O. Eiters and Assistant Superintendent Fletcher visited the borough schools on Friday.

The Freeport (Ill.) Bulletin, in its issue last week, mentioned the celebrating of the ninety-first birthday of John P. Spitzer, who left Union county for Freeport in 1849.

Cost suits, coats, dresses, separate coats and skirts, made over your own individual measurements. Your own cloth or cloth furnished.—Ladies' Toggery Shop, Bellefonte, Pa. Bell 'phone 224 M.

State Forestry Commissioner Robert S. Conkils was a visitor in Centre Hall on Saturday and while here called on Forester Leonard Barnes as well as Forester W. E. Montgomery at Potters Mills.

Postmaster Foster, of State College, has been advised from Washington that his request for motor service for hauling the mail between State College and Lemont has been granted. This will go into effect July 1st.

Public sales to be held within the next week herabouts are: Friday, March 23, by Sarah Kresmer, in Centre Hall; Saturday, March 24, by Lloyd R. Smith, at Centre Hall; and Mrs. Elmer Stumpp, in Centre Hall; Wednesday, March 28th, by W. E. Tate, west of Centre Hall.

Rev. and Mrs. William R. Jones and two daughters, Eileen and Stella, of Shawville, were arrivals at the Reformed parsonage in Centre Hall on Friday and will spend about a month under the parental roof for the benefit of the young minister's health, who only a week ago left the Clearfield hospital after undergoing a rather severe operation.

Mr. and Mrs. John Geary, Mrs. M. E. Krape and daughter, Miss Edna, were in Centre Hall from Friday until Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Geary have been living with their daughter, Mrs. Krape, in Sunbury some time and came to Centre Hall to move their household goods to their new home.

Members of the Yeagertown hunting club have decided to erect a permanent lodge at their camp in the Seven Mountains, for use during the deer and bear season. The material for construction is practically all available in the vicinity of the camp site. It is planned to make the building real cozy as well as to have the modern conveniences of running water and bath.

Rev. Walter H. Williams preached his last sermon for the conference year in the M. E. church in Centre Hall on Sunday. The forty-ninth annual meeting of the central Pennsylvania conference of the M. E. church is being held in Lewistown this week, continuing until Monday evening. The members of the local Methodist charge are trusting that Rev. Williams will again be returned to them by the conference.

Another big sale, the figures of which represent the price of a good farm, was held in the valley last Friday when Bible and Meyer, at Centre Hill, sold \$9408 worth of stock and implements. Auctioneer Frank Mayes set a new record in disposing of the immense lot of goods, everything being sold in just four hours and fifteen minutes. Thirteen cows, of the Red Pole strain, sold from \$80 to \$100 per head, which proves the value of adhering to a particular breed of stock. Sheep went for \$21.50 per head, and other stock proportionately high.

Messrs. John S. Dale, of State College, and M. J. Rosenkrans, of Rochester, New York, were in Centre Hall last Friday in the interest of the Globe Silo Company, of Sidney, New York, for which the latter gentleman is general agent. The Globe silo has many distinctive features and is a decided improvement over the many older styles in use. Its many good qualities have been recognized by various State Granges to such a degree that it has received the endorsement of seven of these farmers' organizations, including the Pennsylvania State Grange. The two gentlemen are now canvassing the valley and have been successful in placing orders for several carloads of the Globe silos.

[Continued on inside page.]