



HARRISBURG NEWS LETTER.

The Republican Party's Favorite Sport of Salary Raising Goes On.—Six to Eight Weeks of Work.—Capital Punishment Abolition Defeated.

Members of both Senate and House are kept fairly busy these days hunting for officeholders whose salaries look as if they could be raised without too great opposition.

Salary-raising is the favorite indoor sport of the Republican party in Pennsylvania, anyway. They rarely do much except devise means of milking the treasury.

So far this session precisely one bit of constructive legislation has been enacted. It is the State Police bill, and it is doubtful if it would have got thru except for the fact that it carried with it in addition of a couple of hundred thousand dollars per year to the state's payroll.

That merely whetted political appetites, however. Bills are in giving substantial raises to the scores of factory inspectors provided by the last Legislature; to the district road superintendents; to the compensation referees; to hundred of clerks in dozen of government offices; to this, that and the other employe wherever it can be devised.

The limit seems to have been reached, however, in the Agricultural Commission and House of Representatives bill.

Two years ago much hurrahing was done, as usual under such circumstance, because the seven agricultural commissioners were to serve without pay. Now a bill is in to allow them \$10 per day, plus expenses, for each day they work, without the number of working days being limited.

The bill to raise salaries in the House, reorganizes the clerical forces of the lower branch along the lines now enjoyed in the Senate. It raises clerks' pay generally and also provides a "Secretary of the House" who is to get \$5,000 a year.

Renewed talk has been heard since the international crisis developed to the effect that the present Legislature may never adjourn. The gossip had aroused much interest.

Early in the session discussion was common that Penrose would have the Legislature do this in order to hold it as a club over the governor.

The "never adjourn" plan, too, would afford opportunity for keeping hungry Penrose men on the Legislative payroll. The salaries run to \$1,400 per day, but that doesn't worry Penrose; he has no other patronage at hand.

Until last week, however, the House had not held an afternoon session. It hasn't an inkling of what night sessions mean, except the ordinary Monday sessions, held when the Senators are fresh.

Capital punishment abolition for Pennsylvania for which a strenuous publicity campaign was waged for weeks has been defeated in the House of Representatives.

At best, the present Legislature is likely to equal the record for length. The record is held by 1897, when adjournment sine die came on July 1. In 1901 and 1913 it was June 27.

Should the present session get down to brass tacks right away and work hard—harder than any members without experience even dream of—it is doubtful if it could finish much before the middle of June.

To get away within six weeks would mean every man working for all that

(Continued at foot of next column.)

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

Subscriber Tells of Mountain Picnic on February 4th. With June Weather, When Butter Melts and Snow Can be Seen Less Than 10 Miles Away.

"Centre Reporters" of recent dates have been quoting weather conditions as found in North Dakota, by Mr. Zerby, and in Florida, by Dr. Miller. Now the part that impressed me was the dates, Feb. 3rd and 4th, and at two extreme points of our Glorious Country, and I felt it my duty to speak up for our California, (the State that all eyes were turned to on Nov. 7th, '16) and while we have had an exceptional winter with the mercury frequently hovering close to the freezing point in the early morning hours during December and part of January, we can report very little damage done.

We had a friend from Chicago stopping with us who wanted to see "Arrowhead Mountain", 75 miles from Los Angeles, and we made the trip Feb. 4th, taking our lunch-kit with us, and lurching at the mountain among the wild flowers; the sun was so hot that the butter melted during luncheon, and yet there was snow on the mountain, less than ten miles away; there was plenty of shade, but we camped out in the open, as Mrs. Combs wanted a picture for she said when she went back they would not believe her, and I will send you a picture for the same purpose.

The snow does not show well on account of the clear sky, but you can see it in the ravines on the side of mountains. After spending several hours at the Springs we left the summit of "Cajon Pass" where in an hour we were snowballing; it was now 6:30 p. m. and a beautiful full-moon just coming up, and with a hundred miles of perfect Boulevard running through the "Pass" and along the foothills through sweet scented orange groves and snow capped peaks gleaming in the moonlight; what grander sight could one wish.

Arriving home at 10 p. m., we called it the end of a "Perfect Day". Now after this burst of eulogy I will enclose a check for three dollars, to help you to recover your equilibrium and also insure the delivery of The Reporter the ensuing two years.

Yours very truly, CHAS. P. SWINT, Los Angeles, Cal., April 11, 1917.

The scarcity of male help to assist in the reforestation work on the Nittany State Forest, in Greens Valley, made it necessary for Forester L. G. Barnes to call upon female labor, and among the scores of planters at work on the tract at present are to be found four strong girls from the farms about Pleasant Gap.

To prove that the Pennsylvania State College was in earnest when it said that senior students would be relieved of further study and receive their diplomas in June if they would help the farmers in the county who are short on help, nearly one hundred students dropped their studies on Monday and withdrew from college to work on farms.

New York city booze "histlers" ought to be able to get enough booze before one o'clock a. m. The mayor's orders to close all drinking places at or before that hour will not therefore make a hardship.

Peach buds in a number of sections of the State are reported to have been killed by the recent cold weather.

(Continued from previous column.) In his him with the House holding three sessions per day and the Senate meeting as long as would be necessary for the swifter body to keep up with the lower branch.

Until last week, however, the House had not held an afternoon session. It hasn't an inkling of what night sessions mean, except the ordinary Monday sessions, held when the Senators are fresh.

The Senate, so far, hasn't met later in the week than Wednesday.

Capital punishment abolition for Pennsylvania for which a strenuous publicity campaign was waged for weeks has been defeated in the House of Representatives.

At best, the present Legislature is likely to equal the record for length. The record is held by 1897, when adjournment sine die came on July 1. In 1901 and 1913 it was June 27.

Should the present session get down to brass tacks right away and work hard—harder than any members without experience even dream of—it is doubtful if it could finish much before the middle of June.

To get away within six weeks would mean every man working for all that

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

Spring Convention to be Held at Spring Mills Friday, May 4th.—Good Subjects for Discussion.

The spring Sunday-school convention of the eleventh district of Centre county, comprising Centre Hall borough, Potter and Gregg townships, will meet in the Lutheran church at Spring Mills, Friday May 4th, afternoon and evening. The officers are anxious that delegates be sent from all Sunday schools in the district.

The subjects for discussion are as follows: "Causes of the boy problem," to be opened by Rev. W. H. Williams. "What can the Sunday-school do for the church."—Rev. L. A. Miller. "Sabbath Observance"—Rev. J. C. Still.

"County Work and County Convention."—L. L. Harvey, president Centre County S. S. Association. Everybody is cordially invited.

Centre County Y. W. C. A. Notes. Travels in Belgium was the subject of a most interesting and instructive talk given by Mrs. Woods at a recent meeting of the Howard Y. W. C. A. Mrs. Woods spoke from her own experience in that most interesting country.

The juniors at Howard had a parliamentary law drill at the last meeting. The True Blue Common Club has started on the project of making a quilt.

A demonstration on the fireless cooker was given by Miss Lucille Wair at the Rhinestown school house on April 26th. She explained how a very simple cooker or "Hay Box" could be made at home with little expense, showing one already made, and explaining its parts, as well as the complicated commercial cooker.

The Vocational Conference for Girls was held at Bellefonte on April 26th. The talks given were carefully planned and embodied the experience of experts in the various lines. Professors of Teaching, Nursing, Business, Attending College, and Home Making were discussed. Charts were left at the school giving definite information as to the places near here where training might be secured in different lines, average salary, etc.

At the last meeting of the County Board Saturday, June 17th, was decided upon a date for Field Day for the county. It was recommended that the day be held rain or shine, the college buildings being ample to accommodate everyone in case of rain, and the athletic stunts and games being modified in that case as they could easily take place under shelter.

The Board voted to present a bookmark to everyone who completes within a year the National County Girls Standard Reading Course. 15 books from a selected list of 23 must be read, and 10 given poems learned. Since they are all interesting and a year's time is allowed to complete the work, it is hoped that many entries will be made. For further information apply to Mrs. John Lyon, Bellefonte, or to the County Secretary, State College.

Threshermen to Meet. The Centre County Threshermen and Farmers' Protective Association will meet in the Court House in Bellefonte on Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a. m. It will be to the interest of all threshermen and farmers who hire threshermen to attend this meeting.

Georges Valley. Mr. and Mrs. William Stoner, of Tusseyville, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Confer.

Miss Rena Wagner, of Centre Hall, visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Wagner, a few days. B. F. Confer and family spent Sunday at the home of their daughter, Mrs. E. E. Gobble.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Lingle spent Sunday at Tusseyville at the home of W. F. Lingle. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lingle spent Sunday at Penn Hall with Mr. Lingle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Emerick.

Those who spent Sunday afternoon at the James Foust home were W. F. McClellan and family and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McClellan of Pottery Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ripka and children spent Sunday in Decker Valley at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ripka.

Mrs. Susan Davis and grandson Carl spent a few days in Poe Valley with her daughter, Mrs. Morris Lingle. The stork left Mr. and Mrs. Lingle a baby girl last week.

Rousing Patriotic Meeting.

The sixteen patriotic and agricultural meetings held throughout Centre county on Saturday evening were attended by thousands of farmers and others who listened to agricultural experts on the subject of intensive farming in order to feed the allied armies as well as the army of this country which has automatically been drawn into the world war.

At Centre Hall the speakers were Dean Holmes and W. H. Tomhave, both from The Pennsylvania State College. The former opened the meeting with a ringing address on patriotism, defining that word in its broadest and most noble sense. Dean Holmes' twenty-minute talk was greeted with an outburst of applause from the crowd which had gathered in the Grange hall.

The action was taken at this time by the college authorities in view of the critical situation in the production of the Nation's farm products. Many requests have come to the agricultural school for trained men to assist in specialized farming operations this summer.

The audience joined in singing a number of patriotic airs during the meeting. Prof. C. R. Neff presided in an able manner, and Rev. R. R. Jones invoked the divine blessing.

Since wheat has reached such a high price many farmers are considering sowing some spring wheat in place of oats. Almost without exception spring wheat has given poor yields wherever tried in Pennsylvania. At the Pennsylvania State College school of agriculture and experiment station two varieties grown in comparison with oats gave an average yield for the last years of thirteen and one tenth and thirteen and two tenths bushels to the acre, while the different varieties of oats grown with them gave average yields for these two years of sixty-seven to eighty bushels to the acre.

In the southern counties of Pennsylvania where oats does relatively poorer than farther north, soybeans are a good substitute for oats.

When spring wheat is sown the preparations of the seedbed and the fertilizing should be similar to that for winter wheat. It should be sown as early as oats. Spring wheat in Pennsylvania is generally too poor in quality for milling purposes. It is necessary therefore to use it for feeding.

Milheim to Have New Town Hall. At a meeting in Milheim council a week ago, motion passed unanimously as follows: That the borough of Milheim build a new town hall of an adequate size for town hall purposes; this building to be built so as to be a credit to the town and community and still not put the borough into debt to any great extent.

Flacts His Lawn in Potatoes. Col. Henry W. Shoemaker intends taking no chances of a food shortage this year and is following President Wilson's advice, by having his beautiful lawn at "Restless Oaks," in Clinton county, planted in potatoes. The Colonel declares there will not be a foot of wasted land in Restless Oaks estate this year.

Death Penalty Stands. The bill to abolish capital punishment in the state of Pennsylvania was defeated in the house a few days ago by a vote of 97 to 83. The bill was defeated for several hours. Consequently the penalty for murders will continue to be by way of the electric chair.

DEATHS.

Mrs. B. D. Ross, of Tyrone, died in the Clearfield hospital last Thursday about 5 o'clock, after a long suffering from stomach and intestinal trouble. She had been an inmate of that institution since March 14. Deceased was a daughter of James and Nancy Eberts, well known residents of Port Matilda. She was born there July 17, 1875. On June 9, 1897, she was united in marriage with B. D. Ross and went to Tyrone on April 14, 1899. She leaves her husband, two children, Wilhelmina and Lieton; also her aged parents. She leaves one brother, O. D. Eberts, and two sisters, Mrs. Clifford Epskeman, and Mrs. John D. Miles, all of Marthas. She joined the Methodist Episcopal church at the age of 13 years. She was also a member of the "Kings Daughters" of the Columbia Avenue Methodist Episcopal church and of Ladies' Auxiliary Excelsior Lodge, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. Funeral was held Sunday morning. Interment at Marthas.

Tuesday of last week one of Philadelphia's prominent citizens died when Christian Ursinus Hoffer passed away at the family home. Interment was made in Bellefonte and the services were conducted by Rev. Eastman of the Reformed church.

The deceased was born on the John Hoffer farm immediately west of Centre Hall, June 15, 1856, making his age almost sixty-one years. He was the only son of John and Leah (Keller) Hoffer. When but a youth the elder Hoffer removed from near Centre Hall to Bellefonte to engage in the mercantile business. The subject of this sketch graduated from Franklin and Marshall college in 1877, and September 17, 1885, was married to Miss Ella Garbrik, daughter of Calvin Garbrik, of Bellefonte. Later (1889) Mr. Hoffer removed to Philadelphia where he held several borough offices. There survives him a wife and five children.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Confer, of Bellefonte, died last Thursday. Burial was made in the Zion hill cemetery at Tusseyville.

Yoder, the Horse Dealer, Dead. A telegram received at the Centre Hall hotel on Thursday announced the sudden death of R. C. Yoder, at his home in Iman, Kansas, that morning. No particulars were given. A letter, dated on Tuesday, was received here on Friday, in which Mr. Yoder referred to his safe arrival home, the work being done on his farm, and also concerning the shipping of an express load of horses to Centre Hall at an early date. Mr. Yoder had been coming to Centre Hall with horses for a number of years and because of his fair and square dealing made many friends who were grieved to learn of his untimely death.

Fifteen Take H. S. Examination. All of the fifteen Potter township scholars who took the examination for high school entrance at Centre Hall on Saturday, under Prof. W. O. Heckman, receive passing marks, next year's freshman class at the local high school will set a new record in local educational history. Seven girls and eight boys, imbued with the spirit of learning, wrestled with the various problems which Supt. D. O. Etters had prepared. They were a lot of ambitious looking scholars and it is the Reporter's hope that all of them will be eligible for admission to the high school next year and carry out their studies to the point of graduation. The following took the examination, and the schools from which they come are also given: Hugh Smith, Marion Bibie, Paul Ripka, Ruth Ripka, from Centre Hall; Vera Heckman, Thomas Grove, John Sloyer, from Plum Grove; Elizabeth Royer, from Earlstown; Emily Jordan, Harvey Flink, Guy Floray, from Tusseyville; Mary Wert, from Tussey Sink; Lester Garbrik, from Pine Stump; Andrew Jordan, from Colyer; and Mildred Brown, from Pottery Mills.

Engaged Memorial Day Speaker. Rev. Ezra H. Yocum, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bellefonte, has been engaged to deliver the Memorial Day address in Centre Hall. Dr. Yocum is a speaker of more than ordinary ability. The local Washington Camp, P. O. S. of A., will have charge of Memorial Day exercises.

Reports come from Cleveland that fine lawns on a fashionable street are to be plowed and planted with potatoes. It is no joke when potatoes are retailing at not less than \$3 a bushel. Flour from \$3 to \$3.20 a sack presents a serious problem to even those with good salaries which shows the desperate condition the head of the household is in who receives but small wages.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The mercantile appraisalment appears in this issue. The lack of idleness was never so apparent as it is now.

Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Horner and son, of Youngsville, moved to near Tusseyville last week. Mrs. J. T. Marshman and little daughter, of State College, were visitors in town on Tuesday.

Charles M. Alexander, the noted Evangelist of England, is conducting a four-day campaign in State College this week, lasting until Sunday.

State road machinery is being put to good use on the Old Fort hill. The road is being scraped and stones are being hauled to fill the numerous holes.

C. E. McClellan and family, of Millheim, motored to the home of the former's brother-in-law, H. W. Frantz, at Earlstown, on Sunday, and spent the day.

Students intending to enroll in the summer normal at Spring Mills should try to be present the first day or give their names to Prof. Godehall so that provision can be made for their entering later. The Boy Mounted Machine Gun Troop engaged in regular drill on Saturday and Sunday, at Bellefonte. No definite time has yet been set for the Boy troop to depart for other fields, but an early call is anticipated.

During the past week vegetation made a wonderful growth. The brown spots in the wheat fields that made you weary are now turning green but it is grass and clover that is coming and not plants that might yield \$2.50 a bushel berries. When you see a farmer go along the road these days in Fords and other cars, you never know whether they are out on pleasure bent or going to market with several crates of eggs, a hundred pounds of butter, or a dozen seed potatoes. Any of these errands is worth the while.

The "tin ears" that are being put on City Hall, Philadelphia, are unlike the ones you used to be threatened with being put onto you when you were a youngster. The City Hall ears, five in number, will be ten feet across and will be cocked to hear a "zep" twenty miles out. The Millheim scholars, who a few weeks ago issued an ultimatum to the school board demanding a flag pole and flag on their school grounds under the threat of non attendance at school, have won their fight. A pole has been produced and soon the stars and stripes will be flying to the breeze. Young America usually gets what he goes after.

The Pennsylvania State College student body has been placed on a war footing. More than 500 upper-class men who have had two years' military training joined a special class to prepare them for commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps. Dr. Edwin E. Sparks, president, will permit these students to substitute military studies for their regular academic work, and college credit will be given.

The barn at Howard, which was used by Rev. Charles W. Rishel as a garage, was totally destroyed by fire last Thursday night a week ago. With the barn was burned the reverend's 1916 touring car and a quantity of garden tools, packing boxes, etc. Rev. Rishel places his loss at \$800 with no insurance. The barn belonged to the church property and no insurance was carried on it.

F. P. Geary received from his brother-in-law, J. B. Kerstetter, of Coburn, on Saturday, a nine-foot-inch California trout which the latter caught in Pennes Creek, not far from his home, the day previous. It was one of a nice string of trout which Mr. Kerstetter hooked in a few hours fishing. Barber Geary, while being somewhat of a clever trout fisherman himself, is content to go after the smaller fry and leave his brother-in-law supply him with the 'shad-size trout that give battle royal to the most expert with rod and reel.

Mrs. Mary Shoop returned to Centre Hall the latter part of last week after having visited for several months in Washington, Frederick, Maryland, and Harrisburg. At Frederick she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Bolt and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bolt. The latter are living just outside the city on a small truck farm and are enjoying life and getting along fine. They are much interested in all the movements about Centre Hall, although they have been absent from here for many years. The Junior Bolt is conducting a large garage, and with his family of eight children and one grandchild is quite happy.