

## SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

The state Board in "Questions and Answers" Give Information for School Directors and Others.

1. When does the state school employees' retirement system go into effect?

Ans. The retirement system shall be established on the first day of July, 1919.

2. When do local school districts and other employers begin to contribute to the retirement fund?

Ans. The first contribution to the retirement fund to be made by employers on account of "present employees" is due and payable in July 1919. The first contribution to the retirement fund to be made by employers on account of "new entrants" is due and payable in July, 1920.

3. What is meant by "present employee"?

Ans. Any person employed in a full time occupation in connection with the public school system on, or not longer than three years prior to July 18, 1917, is termed a present employee.

4. What is meant by "new entrant"?

Ans. Any person employed for the first time in a full time occupation in connection with the public school system of the state since July 18, 1917, is termed a new entrant.

5. How is the amount which a local school district will contribute to the retirement fund in July 1919 determined?

Ans. In July 1919 each local district will pay into the state retirement fund an amount equal to 1.4 per cent. of the total compensation paid to all present employees belonging to the State Retirement Association in service in that district during the preceding school year. Six months later, in July 1920, the local school district will duplicate its first payment to the retirement fund, making the amount contributed for the entire school year equal to 2.8 per cent. of the total compensation paid to present employees during the preceding school year.

6. In a rural school district employing ten teachers, half of whom are present employees and half new entrants, how much money will this district be required to pay into the State retirement fund for the year beginning July 1, 1919, and ending June 30, 1920?

Ans. Assuming that the length of the school year is seven months, and the average salary of the five present employees is \$60.00 per month, the amount which this district will pay into the retirement fund during the school year of 1919-20 is \$68.50. This amount if used to increase the salaries of ten teachers in the district would give each teacher an increase of only 84 cents per month.

7. How much extra will the rural school district referred to in Question 6 need to contribute to the state retirement fund for the school year beginning July 1, 1920, on account of the five new entrants in its employ.

Ans. Assuming that the average age of the new entrants in 22 years this school district will pay into the retirement fund on account of new entrants during the school year of 1920-21 the sum of \$29.19. This amount if used to increase the salaries of the teachers in the district would give teacher an increase of 42 cents per month. This amount of money which a school district appropriates for the retirement fund will probably do more to elevate the standard of teaching and increase the efficiency of the schools than an amount several times as large spent for any other purpose.

8. How many states now have teachers' retirement systems?

Ans. Teachers' retirement systems have been established in 33 states. In 22 states the retirement system is state-wide in its application.

9. Why is a school employees' retirement system desirable?

Ans. A school employees' retirement system is desirable for at least four reasons, as follows: (a) the elimination from active school service of those who have lost their efficiency because of advancing age, or mental or physical disability; (b) the improvement in the morale of those who remain in the service; (c) the retention in the service of the best of the present employees, many of whom in the absence of such a system resign to accept positions elsewhere; (d) the attraction to the service of a higher grade of employees.

10. Why does the Pennsylvania school employees' retirement system merit the confidence and support of employers and employees?

Ans. Because it is established on a sound actuarial basis. The rates of contributions to the retirement fund for both employees and employers have been adopted as a result of a careful actuarial investigation of the mortality

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## PRESIDENT VETUES FIXED WHEAT PRICE.

Prates Patriotic Spirit of Farmers Who Do Not Need Stimulus.

In vetoing the \$25,000,000 annual agricultural appropriation bill because of its amendment facing the government guaranteed minimum wheat price at \$2.40 a bushel, the president informed congress on Friday that he did not believe the farmer of America "depend upon a stimulation of price to do their utmost to serve the nation and the world at this time of crisis."

The president said the patriotic spirit of the farmers has been "worthy of all praise and has shown them playing a most admirable and gratifying part in the full mobilization of the resources of the country." He adds that the bumper crops they have raised this year have relieved "the anxiety of the nations arrayed against Germany with regard to their food supplies."

Congress was further informed that the president did not believe that such inelastic price provisions as contained in the bill could be administered in a way that would be advantageous to the producer and consumer, because they establish arbitrary levels which are quite independent of the normal market conditions. The administration methods in fixing prices, he said, has been entirely satisfactory and should be continued.

## Reappointed Surveyor of Customs.

Hon. Charles R. Kurtz, editor of the Centre Democrat, was reappointed Surveyor of Customs, for district No. 11, with headquarters in Philadelphia. His reappointment is for a period of four years, dating from the 5th inst. His name was sent to the United States Senate about a year ago, but was held up by Senator Sausbury, of Delaware, who made the claim that he should be consulted on the appointment. When it was shown that the receipts collected in Philadelphia were for \$15,000,000 to \$21,000,000, against \$15,000 collected in Maryland, it became a clear case that the Maryland Senator was asking too much.

The Reporter finds pleasure in announcing Mr. Kurtz's reappointment.

## State "Cops" After Law Violators.

Trooper Laughlin, of the detail of the State Constabulary, with headquarters at the Potter House, Philadelphia, recently made his one hundredth arrest of slackers, delinquents and deserters. The troops all over the state are making an intensive campaign against violators of the draft laws, irrespective of where the hand of the law might strike.

The other day Trooper Laughlin while on his way to Bellefonte jail with Steve Fillick, the Austrian who shot up Stanley Petrovski, caught and arrested several speed violators at Tyrone, according to the Herald.

## Dashem-Horner.

At the paragonage of the Evangelical Association church, at Madisonburg, by Rev. Manville, Elmer Dashem and Miss Mand Horner were united in marriage on Saturday afternoon. The groom is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dashem, of near Tusseyville, and the bride the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Horner, of near Linden Hall. Their many friends extend congratulations.

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and service experience of teachers throughout the country. One-half of the final retirement allowance will be paid from contributions by the employers. The retirement system will benefit the public school system of the entire state. If approximately 50,000 citizens who happen to be school employees bear one-half of the cost of the retirement allowances, the other half can easily be paid by those who contribute to the support of the school system.



Arter de wies of owl spit on do half he say, sez ee—"I gwine ter sprize you all wid a mess er fishes 'cause you all mus' save de meat en eat sumpin' else instid en jes git out dat ol' game bag en make it work, too," sez ee. Den he kotch a big fish and say, sez ee, "thoot-thoot—L-sub-sti-toot," sez ee. When he say dat he means dat when you all make riz biscuits jes don't make 'em—use corn meal ter save wheat flour fer de sojers.

(Continued on next column)

## BIG PLANT FOR SPRING MILLS.

To Open Lime Stone Quarries on Big Scale for Use in Manufacture of Steel.—A War-Time Industry.—\$500,000 Plant in Prospect.

Residents of Gregg township, and especially of Spring Mills, are much concerned about recent developments which promise to place that town prominently on the map by reason of having a war-time industry of no mean proportions. No munition or powder plant is in prospect, but an industry which is essential to the production of steel, which Uncle Sam at the present time is buying at the rate of nearly one ton every second of the day.

The common every-day limestone with which Penna Valley is enriched, is the cause for a \$500,000 plant to be erected in that locality, if present plans materialize.

Mr. Sherman, representing the C. H. Johnson Company, of New Castle, leased the farms of ex-Sheriff A. B. Lee and W. M. Grove, last week, as a starter, and advanced a lot of cash as evidence of good faith, and at the same time partially secured the leasing of contiguous farms. It is the purpose of the above named company to begin stone operations on the farms, a heavy ridge of limestone being located thereon. The exact time for starting operations is not yet known, although the representative assured the interested parties that no time would be lost in starting after all the preliminary steps were adjusted.

The limestone which will be quarried will be reduced to a certain size for use as furnace stone, which is used in the manufacture of steel. The entire product will find its way toward the manufacture of steel for Uncle Sam's use in these war times. It is planned to turn out 100 carloads of stone a day, and of course will mean the employment of hundreds of men.

The Reporter has the above information from parties directly interested who are enthusiastic about the project and believe in its complete fulfillment. The progress of the prospective industry will be watched with considerable interest.

## Country Church Conference at State College.

The second annual inter-denominational country church conference opened at State College on Tuesday morning of last week, for a ten days session, with an enrollment of slightly over twenty. This is considerably below the number which was there last year, but the decrease is attributed largely to the unsettled conditions of the country due to the war.

The ministers are there for a ten-day session. Each day at 8 o'clock, there is a lecture by Dean G. W. Fluke, of the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, who speaks on religious education and the work of the ministry. At 9 o'clock, Dr. R. E. Hieronymus, community adviser of the University of Illinois, speaks on the problems relating to the church and community organization. At 10:30 a round table conference is held.

The afternoons are in charge of the different schools, the school of agriculture having charge from July 10 to 17.

The object of the conference is to familiarize the country church ministers with the work of the school of agriculture and the agricultural experiment station with special reference to the teachings that are applicable to the farm problems of their respective communities. Excursions over the experimental fields, farms and through the laboratories and barns are made a prominent feature of the program, making it as effective as possible. Where long excursions are included, the department arranges for the necessary conveyances so far as they are needed.

## Many Visit Reclamation Tract Near Snow Shoe.

Agricultural representatives of fifty counties in Pennsylvania on Tuesday of last week motored to State College and later to Snow Shoe, where they inspected the reclamation tract. The tract, for many years regarded as waste land, has been reclaimed and is now on a productive basis, under the supervision of the agricultural department of State College.

## The Pink Label.

The Pink Label this week gives credit to the many Reporter readers who so liberally responded to our request for payment, in a shape of a statement, sent out several weeks ago. Of course, as was to be expected, a number failed to respond, but we trust to hear from them before long, believing that the matter has only been unintentionally postponed. To those who paid up, and in advance, we extend our sincere thanks, and we would ask that they examine their label this week and if the credit given fails to correspond with the amount remitted, to notify us at once, and the error will be rectified.

## FAREWELL FOR SOLDIERS ON SUNDAY

Italians to Take Leading Part in Demonstration at Bellefonte for Soldier Boys Who Leave for Camp Lee.—Renovo Italian Band.

Bellefonte is preparing for a big send-off for the 117 selected men who will leave for Camp Lee, Virginia, on Monday, the 22nd of July. The Italian population of Centre county will take a leading part in the demonstration and have made elaborate preparations. Inspired by the grand successes of their native country's soldiers against the Austrians, the Italians in this county will show their feeling in no uncertain way.

Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock a parade will take place in the streets of Bellefonte. A big unit of the parade will be composed of 200 Italians who have ordered new flags and hats for the occasion. They have engaged the Italian band of Renovo, which is one of the best bands in the state. The Italian consul, located at Altoona, will also be present and deliver an address in the Chautauqua tent, which will be followed by speeches by Col. J. L. Spangler, Col. H. S. Taylor, Mayor W. H. Walker, and others.

The only two Centre Hall boys who will leave with the larger contingent, on Monday, are I. Clymer McClennahan and Herbert Garis.

## Child Undergoes Operation.

Kreamer Hosterman, eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hosterman, of Centre Hill, was taken to the Lock Haven hospital by the family physician, Dr. H. H. Longwell, on Monday, where an operation was performed for the removal of the tonsils and adenoids. The operation was a success and the lad has returned home.

## Explosion at Mt. Union Powder Plant.

The gun cotton building at the Mt. Union plant of the Aetna Explosives company, was wrecked and nine men were injured, five probably fatally, late on Sunday, by an explosion. A workman, it is said, thrust a fork into a tub of dry cotton causing a spark which was followed by the blast. A horse, standing near the wrecked building, was killed by the force of the explosion.

## Motorcyclist Loses Leg.

Charles McCole, aged eighteen, of Belleville, had a leg badly crushed when his motorcycle collided with the auto in Kishacoquillas valley, on Sunday. He was taken to the Lewisport hospital, where the injured member was amputated.

## Meeting of Odd Fellows Hall Assoc.

A meeting of the Centre Hall I. O. O. F. Hall Association will be held in the lodge room on Thursday evening, July 25th, at 8:00 o'clock.

By order of Secretary.

## Bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

Bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan are now being turned out by the thousands daily by the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The bonds are similar in form and design to those of the third loan, and space has been left on each bond for insertion of the exact terms of the bonds. It is believed that a sufficient number of the bonds will be ready to make possible immediate delivery of all bonds on the fourth loan as they are purchased.

## Wanted at once—15 coops hens.—Chas. D. Bartholomew.

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## STATE AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Canning factories have contracted for 3,942 acres of corn, 825 acres of peas and 265 acres of beans.

Every farmer of Pennsylvania is urged to plan for the greatest wheat acreage that is possible under crop rotation practice.

It is estimated that the Pennsylvania peach crop will total about 1,251,000 bushels and the apple crop 16,140,000 bushels.

Canning factories report that 1,481 acres of tomatoes have been contracted for in Pennsylvania this year as compared with 1,258 acres last year.

It is estimated that only 64 per cent. of the corn planted in the State germinated and that 23 per cent of the acreage had to be replanted or filled in.

East Hempfield township in Lancaster county is the banner farm tractor or township of the State according to numbers owned and operated by farmers.

It is estimated that 50 per cent. of the Pennsylvania farmers tested their seed corn during the past season against a usual average of 26 per cent. testing corn.

## one good tun



U. S. Food Administration. Just ez de buckwheat cake got flop over on his face, Brer Bacon-rin' dance 'roun' en say, sezee:—"One good tun' deserven en nuth'er," sezee.—Meanin' dat ef de sojer boys go en do de fightin' fer us, de leas' we all kin do is ter sen' 'em all de wheat—en eat buckwheat instid. Co'n meal, rye en barley flour fer us will hep' a lot too.

## Heard from Son in France.

J. F. Hager, the carpenter, of Farmers Mills, who enjoys the distinction of having four sons serving the colors, recently had a letter from his son, Corporal J. Merrill Hagen, who is attached to the 462nd Aero Squadron, and is somewhere in France. He reports his health fine and his work to his liking. He is seeing much of the beautiful country of France on a motorcycle and says he "likes it fine". The young man was pleased to hear from another brother who is in training at Waco, Texas, and in commenting on the latter's leaving home, says: "I suppose it was rather hard for you to see him go, but then you must feel proud to say that you have so many sons in the service fighting for the world's democracy, and all we can do is to put our trust in the Lord and pray, and surely he will lead us safely through."

## Letter From Sailor Boy.

A French Port, June —, 1918

Dear Bro. Ted:— Well, here I am, Ted, many miles away from the good old States, but feel perfectly at home, just the same, for the French people receive us Americans with open arms. The trip across was quite an adventurous one, but of course you understand that I am not allowed to go into detail as to what happened. We experienced some rough weather for a time, but on the whole it was fair. The first sight of land surely was a treat to my eyes, which had become sore, so to speak, after being out on the sea the length of time we were.

I could hardly realize that I was so far away from the good old U. S. A. when I first set my foot on French ground. The Y. M. C. A. is doing wonderful work, and is certainly appreciated by the boys. As a matter of fact we would feel at a loss without their help.

The days here are much longer than they are over in America. The day breaks about 3:30 a. m., and it is after 10:00 p. m. before it becomes dark.

Well, Ted, you understand that I cannot say very much, therefore I'll have to bring my letter to a hasty conclusion.

With kindest regards,  
Your Brother,  
OTTO BAILEY.

## Tyrone Has High Tax Millage.

The borough of Tyrone seems to hold the record for high tax rate. The Tyrone Times says: Few towns compare with us for a high tax rate—43 1/2 mills. Think of it—22 1/2 mill school tax. Never in the history of our town has the tax rate been so exorbitant. The Park Avenue school building helped the rate along. How many parents have gone through this building recently? To improve property is to be additionally taxed. There is little encouragement to build, and for new industries the high tax rate is like milder or a wet towel slapped in the face.

## "Brer Tater" and garden sass



U. S. Food Administration. Brer Tater ain't skeerin' up a ghos' wen he say we all mus' get less wheat en less meat en save all de fat en sugar we kin'. We has jist got ter feed dat big army er fightin' sojer boys, en we kin do hit by eatin' right smart mo' taters en garden sass en eatin' mo' fish en game 'stid er pork and beef. Ef we alls don't gin ter feed dem sojers right now we'll be feedin' somebody 'fo' long en it won't be us.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The pink label this week. Wanted at once—15 coops hens.—Chas. D. Bartholomew.

Bellefonte's Chautauqua begins today (Thursday) and extends until the 25th.

The W. E. Blair farm, at Wolf's Store was recently sold to A. E. Limbert for \$9,600.

Waterstown is enforcing the speed law and caused a number of arrests of auto drivers last week.

Paul Musser, Millheim's professional baseball pitcher, is in training for the national army at Des Moines, Iowa.

The road through the borough is past reaching rock bottom, and delay in repairing simply means greater expense.

A torrential rain, accompanied by a shower of small hail stones, passed over this section on Thursday evening. No serious damage was done.

Ed. Lair, tenant on the Keller brothers farm, east of town, expedited haymaking by hitching his tin "Liz" to a side-delivery hay rake. It worked fine.

Some of our local auto drivers are very much abusing the "cut-out". To use the "cut-out" in descending a hill is pretty fair evidence of a missing cog in the driver's sense knot.

One hundred and fifty dollars is a fine price for an ordinary Holstein cow, yet that is the figure asked and received last week by George Horner, of near Linden Hall. The cow was an especially large one.

Young men reaching twenty-one years since June 5th, will soon be obliged to register. If these want to choose the character of service, they should enlist at once. Registered men have no choice as to service.

W. C. Cassidy, who for more than thirty years was engaged as a printer in Bellefonte, will leave that place to locate in Canton, Ohio, from which place he came. He will enter the print shop of his father, Robert A. Cassidy.

Sergeant James C. Wertz, of Lewisport, made the supreme sacrifice by giving his life while in action against the Hun. He was struck by a fragment of an exploding shell while leading his platoon across a dangerous space in an offensive attack, recently.

Clyde Stover, who moved from Centre Hall to Millheim in the spring, recently moved to Milton, where he is employed in the munitions plant. His father-in-law, J. W. O. Houseman, accompanied the family to their new home and assisted in getting everything in good shape.

Centre Hall borough is so far over the top on the sale of War-Savings Stamps that it would be unkind to compare the result with other towns of its size in Centre county and elsewhere. Messrs. Jacob Sharer, Adam C. Ripka and E. M. Huyett helping to bring up the quota, each having taken the limit—\$1000—in stamps.

In making a remittance on subscription, J. Paul Barick, of Martinsburg, says: The Reporter is a welcome weekly visitor to our home, as it brings all the news from dear old Penna Valley. Morrisons Cove, in which Martinsburg is located, is a beautiful valley, and very fertile. Farms are productive beyond the average and this year's crops look exceptionally good. The call of our nation has been answered by about sixty of our young men and it makes our town seem very slow and dry by their leaving.

A heavy rain and electric storm passed over the east end of Millin county Thursday, washing the fields badly in places. Lightning struck several wheat shocks in the fields on the farm owned by Philip Mertz; and burned the large bank barn on the Bruce Stewart farm. In addition to the building, the fire consumed about one-half of the year's hay crop, twenty bushels of seed wheat, twenty-five bushels of oats and some of the farm implements. The loss was about \$1,000, with half of the amount covered by insurance.

Recently a man living in West Brush valley stopped at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Hasenplug and told her that her son, Roy Held, who was known to have sailed, had been drowned enroute to France, says the Millheim Journal. The lady naturally was much worried, but the next day she received a card from the soldier boy announcing his safe arrival overseas. The person who told the untruth to the women should be punished, and surely would be if the facts were brought to the attention of the district attorney.