

**LOCAL AND PERSONAL.**

Four months of the borough school term were brought to a close the middle of this week.

W. E. McWilliams of Rock Springs, is at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. V. Goodhart, in Centre Hall.

In Centre county thirty-nine land owners planted forest trees for reforestation, planting a total of 154,165 trees during 1923.

Alfred Miller, of Sunbury, came to the home of his brother, M. N. Miller, Saturday evening. Mr. Miller is engaged in an auto supply store as a clerk.

Messrs. W. F. Rishel and Wallace N. Igen were two of Gregg township's prominent farmers to call on the Reporter on business the latter part of last week. Both of them have been making a success of farming and that is saying a good deal when it is applied to this particular time.

Charles Shultz, who with Mrs. Shultz (formerly Miss Kate Pennington) live in the vicinity of the "Swamp" church below Farmers Mills, was found in an unconscious condition in the woods when he had gone to cut wood. He was taken to his home, but since has been confined to bed.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus R. Finkle, of Millinburg, motored to Centre Hall on Saturday. Mrs. Finkle visiting her parents. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Emery. Mr. Finkle was a caller at this office to arrange for printing sale bills for the Finkle clean-up sale at Spring Mills, March 1st.

Invitations are out for the celebration of the tenth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns, to take place at Moran's Cafe, New Crawford House, Muncy, January 22. Mrs. Burns will be recalled as Miss Nina Snyder, when living in Centre Hall. Mr. Burns is chief of police of Muncy.

The Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company held its annual meeting in Bellefonte on Monday. The meeting was well attended and the reports show a handsome increase in business over the previous year. All former officers were elected. There were two changes in directors—one on account of the death of R. H. Reed and the other owing to the voluntary retirement of Frank McFarlane, of Boalsburg, who long served in that capacity. The new directors are T. M. Huey, of Scotia, and Frank E. Wieland, of Linden Hall. The annual statement of the company will appear in the next issue of the Reporter.

**T**HAT winter construction is economically desirable from every point of view was the theme of the speakers at a luncheon meeting of the New York Building Congress, held in the Hotel Commodore on November 21. The building industry, they said, was carrying twelve months' expenses on nine months' business, and to correct that condition recommended that big construction be started in the cold months.

The number of contracts for new construction have increased this autumn beyond expectations and reports show that a large amount of work in erecting buildings has been planned for the coming cold season.

The speakers at Wednesday's luncheon made use of lantern slides to prove their theses. One of them, John Lowry, Jr., a builder, showed on a screen pictures of a building on the construction of which \$87,710 was saved through labor in the winter of 1922-1923. The total cost of the structure was \$750,000, he said.

Continuing, Mr. Lowry said: "To offset that, the expenditures for winter construction were a total of \$3,863, or about one-half of 1 per cent. of the total cost of the job." The extra cost was for protection of workers and materials and supplying the necessary heat, he explained.

"If you consider the bricklayer production in the summer of 1922 as 100 per cent. in the erection of this job during the winter of 1922-1923 the bricklayer production was 109 per cent., or 9 per cent. more than in the summer of 1922. Comparing this with last summer the bricklayer production was 91 per cent. In other words, on this job, carried on during the winter, I produced 18 1/2 per cent. more brick per day per man than I was able to do last summer on brick work. Bricklayers working on the job got \$10 a day. The payroll for the entire job was \$28,150 for bricklayers. If it had been continued last summer the dropping off in production, or in efficiency, would have added \$5,529 to the cost of bricklayers alone. If you consider the bonus award of \$4, that is, \$14 a man today, the bonus would have cost \$11,250. In other words, the brick work on this job would have cost \$16,339 in addition to the \$28,150 actually paid for bricklayers.

"The payroll on this job for bricklayers, carpenters, labor and engineers amounted to \$120,667. If it had been done last summer rather than last winter, the dropping off in production and the bonus award would have added \$25,530 to my payroll.

**Winter Construction Cost.**  
"In addition to the saving in labor the saving on purchases of materials in subcontracts on this job amounted to \$16,030 over the prices I was able to procure in the summer of 1922. In other words, between labor and the purchase of materials and subcontracts, there was a saving of \$87,710 on this job, the building work of which had cost \$750,000.

"To offset that the expenditures for winter construction were as follows: Temporary protection to labor and material, \$871; tarpaulins cost, \$667, with a salvage of \$442; net cost, \$225; temporary heat, salamanders, cost \$368; salamanders, \$302; coke, \$394; boiler attendants, labor, \$1,035; coal for boiler heating, \$150; temporary lighting, labor and service, \$195; snow clearing, \$111; a total of \$3,863, or about one-half of 1 per cent. of the total cost of the job. Bear in mind that the labor saving was \$25,530, and the material and subcontract saving was \$62,000 to offset \$3,863 winter protection cost."

Mr. Lowry said that "Charles M. Schwab realized the value of winter construction. As a matter of fact, some time ago he gave me an order to build \$500,000 worth of buildings. They could be built next summer just as well as this winter. He required that they be finished on September 1, 1924. The work is in course of construction. I have some of it inclosed and some of it in the open. I will keep my gang steadily employed the winter through, in bad days working inside and on good days on the outside. Through this means I will save many thousands of dollars in the course of construction. Build in the winter and keep the architect, builder and subcontractor and labor busy. It will better balance up the industry."

**Cold Doesn't Hold Up Work.**  
"Working with concrete during the cold season is practical from every standpoint," explained W. J. Barney, president of the Barney-Ahlers Construction Company. "More winter construction is the acknowledged remedy for seasonal unemployment in the building industry."

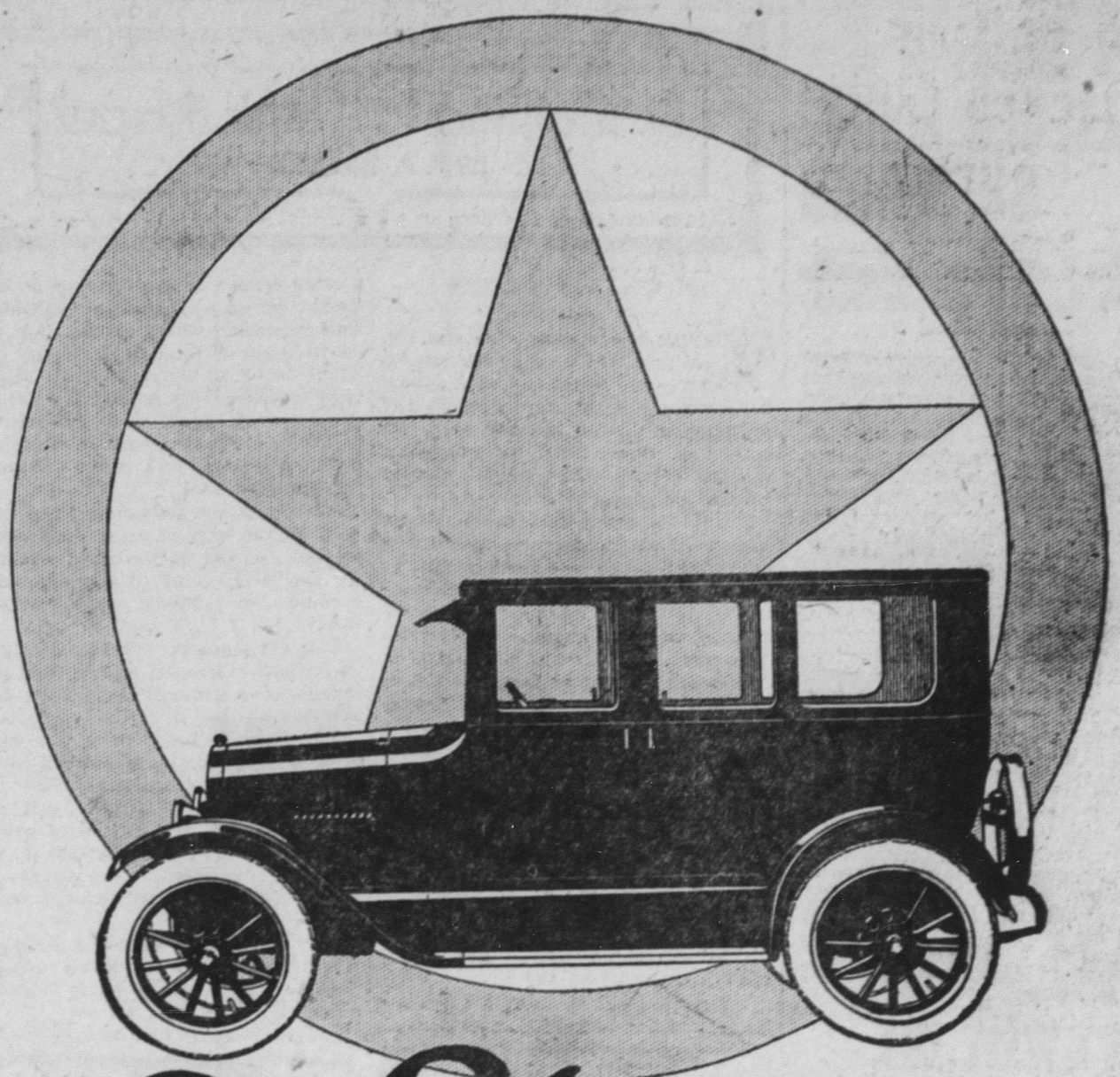
A lantern slide picture showing the following figures was then put on the screen:

Total Contract	Time of Protection	Cost of Protection	Percentage
\$263,000	Dec-Jan.	\$13,000	5%
180,000	Dec-Jan.	8,800	4 1/2%
95,000	Jan-Feb.	6,300	6 1/2%

Mr. Barney gave the following explanation of the figures: "From our files I have taken three typical contracts and the amounts given under the total contract column are practically for the re-enforced concrete structure, including walls, sash and roof, for that part of the building which requires protection from winter winds, freezing and cold in the course of construction. Once the building is inclosed the matter of heating for the finishing trades is comparatively simple, especially if the permanent heating plant has promptly followed up the structural work. In a general way about 5 per cent. of the contract represents the cost for winter protection. This, however, does not represent the true cost of winter construction, as the cost of this winter protection, especially under present conditions of the labor and materials markets, is more than offset by the lower cost of materials during the winter, the absence of bonuses paid to mechanics, the greater efficiency of mechanics under conditions when work is not so plentiful.

Harold M. Shreve, of Carre & Haatings, outlined generally the reasons why winter building was sound from every economic viewpoint and presented a composite chart of salient facts regarding the benefits of building in that season. In explaining the chart, Mr. Shreve said:

"The contracts awarded in twenty-seven States are also shown by month. The New York Building Department for the last ten years shows when people make their alterations in New York and we have made up a composite curve showing when alterations are made in New York, this being the result of an average of ten years. Those are some of the things I would say can be remedied. The figures have no relation one to another so far as totals go. They only show tendencies. It looks as if somebody was getting busy this fall to do some work this winter."



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