

ADVOCATES NEW METHOD
OF TAXING, ASSESSING
AND COLLECTING TAXES.

Representative Ludlow Calls Century-Old Tax System a Crazy Quilt—Says Compensation Amounts to a Veritable Scandal—Too Much Lobby by Tax Collectors and Assessors

Representative Benjamin H. Ludlow of Montgomery county, calls the century-old tax system in the counties of the State a crazy quilt. He is the sponsor of a bill that would bring about equitable assessments and fair taxes at the same time end the political jobs, the many local assessors, which have had the result of continuing the archaic laws now relating to local taxation on the statute books.

Chief opponents of the bill now as in the past few Legislatures are the organization of tax collectors and assessors who contribute biennially to send a lobby to Harrisburg. To unseat this group seems difficult although most taxpayers consider the tax system wrong and there have been objections raised to the methods used in the many counties for years.

Representative Ludlow is not only the sponsor of the bill but an authority on local taxation. He is a fluent speaker and able writer and in the current issue of the Bulletin of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters he has the following to say regarding the old tax system:

"In preparing any legislation we should follow the time-honored recipe: prove the evil, suggest the remedy, and then adopt it. When medical men locate bacilli or germs of disease they study methods to counteract it. When a railroad engineer meets an obstacle, he overcomes it. It is there not enough intelligence and courage in the citizens throughout our State and in the Legislature to attack the trenches now held by a group of selfish tax collectors, whose only defense to the remedy suggested is that it might deprive them of a political job? We think there is."

"A political job is only justifiable insofar as it is a necessary part of the machinery of government and is properly and economically managed. Why should Pennsylvania adhere so devotedly to a hundred-year-old system when all of the states west of the Mississippi and half of the states east of the Mississippi have adopted more modern and more economical methods of assessment and collection? Why should the State of Pennsylvania permit a small army of petty local jobholders to receive compensation so vastly disproportionate to the services rendered that, even though it is authorized by existing law, it amounts to a veritable scandal. How many men and women in this State know who their tax collector is? In boroughs the same man collects both borough and school district taxes."

"In many of our counties there are special local laws applicable to these counties—more relics of ancient legislation. Why should the citizens of the State of Pennsylvania pay more money merely to collect their school taxes than the citizens of some states pay to collect all of their local taxes? Would not the average Pennsylvanian be startled to know that we pay to collect our school taxes alone several times the sum which is paid in the state of Ohio to collect all forms of taxation within its counties?"

"How many citizens of this State are satisfied with the present unequal assessment laws? The comments here made do not relate either to assessment or collection in the county of Philadelphia, but even Philadelphia has this very material interest in the subject: If the State Government aids by a system of subsidies the hundreds of school districts throughout the State, and those school districts under existing laws pay exorbitant sums to collect their school taxes, how much less would the State be required to contribute in the form of subsidies if the local school district overhead were properly reduced? Or, if the State subsidy is proper in amount, how much more would the local taxpayers within the school districts save, per capita, if a much smaller sum were paid to collect their school taxes? If, as is the fact, the State of Pennsylvania aids hundreds of school districts which are paying under existing laws disproportionate amounts to tax collectors, why is not Philadelphia, which contributes so large a share of the State's general revenue, interested in terms of dollars and cents to see the existing evil corrected?"

Is it fair that sixty-six out of sixty-seven of our counties should, within their own respective confines, assess their real estate upon such varying bases of valuation that, whether it is intended or not (and it frequently is deliberately intended), results in cheating the county?"

A youth in the freshman class of the Centre Hall High School—Elwood Smith—has developed ability in the electrical line and put his knowledge to use in the construction of a radio. The instrument is crude. Telephone batteries are used and other parts of the instrument are entirely handmade, but she "comes in" with no more static than found in the expensive sets are in operation.

Preparing to move into a larger farm, Gilbert Rimmer purchased a crack team of bays and is having them tugged up with new harness purchased from the local dealer, D. A. Booser. Mr. Rimmer will move from the Houterman farm, at Centre Hall, to the Ralph Shook farm, north of Penn Hall, owned by the Pittsburgh firm that purchased several farms in that section for the lime stone on them.

BIDS ASKED TO EXTEND
HIGHWAY TO SNOW SHOE

Third Large Project for Centre County Announced—8 Miles of Concrete

A third large State highway project for Centre county has been authorized by the State Highway Department at Harrisburg, and the advertisement for bids ordered. This is an extension of over eight miles of highway from about one mile beyond Snow Shoe intersection to a point some distance beyond Snow Shoe. The highway will be built of concrete. All, or the greater portion, will be completed this year, according to a statement in the Republican.

The cost of the proposed highway will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$400,000, due to the mountainous character of the route. On the other hand, due to the same reason, the project will be attended with comparatively few claims for damages.

With the Bald Eagle valley highway, that over the Centre Hall mountain and the Snow Shoe extension, all under way, Centre county will witness road construction costing somewhere near \$1,400,000, going on at one time. The approximate cost of the three projects will be upward of \$1,775,000, but of this total about \$400,000 will be for that portion of the Bald Eagle valley route lying in Blair county.

That such a large proportion of the proposed \$500,000 bond issue for roads is to be applied in Centre county in one year is, in the minds of some persons, news almost too good to be true. However, the State Highway Department is authority for the announcement, and it is assumed to be made in all sincerity.

The plans for the Snow Shoe extension call for numerous changes in the present route. These aim chiefly to eliminate several extremely sharp, dangerous curves and steep grades. The most radical change will be at the Furl farm. There the new route leaves the old and swerves a considerable distance to the right, heading toward Snow Shoe. This change will necessitate a fill of upward of 500 feet in length and at some points fully 20 to 25 feet deep. This fill will largely, if not entirely, shut off any view of the Furl farm buildings. The damage to private property in this instance is said to be about the only serious one along the route. The State Highway Department will allow the fill to settle until next spring before that stretch of road is completed.

Happily for Centre county taxpayers, there are no bridges on the eight miles of extension to be rebuilt.

To Publish Assessments.

Publication of the triennial assessment, starting this year, is provided for in a bill introduced by Representative Weaver, of Bucks county. It provides that the county commissioners of all counties but Philadelphia, publish a complete list of all assessments of real estate, giving the amount of the assessment, name of owner, location and improvements sufficiently to identify it one time and in at least one newspaper of general circulation, weekly preferred. The rate is fixed by that for advertising similar sales, legal or court notices.

A short time ago Henry Barto, who was Paul Bradford's right hand man on the Old Fort farm, owned by W. Frank Bradford, moved to the Roland Treaster farm along Sinking Creek. Nevil Shaeffer has been employed by Mrs. Bradford.

FARM CALENDAR
Timely Reminders from
The Pennsylvania State College

Grow Clover and Alfalfa.—Sweet clover will not take the place of red clover and alfalfa as a hay crop. Its chief value is as a pasture and soil improvement crop. Stick to the reliable legumes, clover and alfalfa, for protein hay.

Promote Farm Health.—Thirty-six counties in Pennsylvania used knock-down community forms for making concrete septic tanks on the farm last year. Has your county adopted a program involving this very necessary assistance to farm sanitation? Ask the county agent or home demonstration agent about it.

Hotbed Needs Attention.—When manure is placed in the hotbed the soil temperature will rise considerably after a day or two. Do not sow seed until the soil temperature drops to 75 degrees. After the plants are up the hotbed will need frequent attention. Water thoroughly and only when necessary rather than lightly and frequently. Watch the ventilation carefully, especially on sunny days. Most losses of plants in hotbeds are due to improper watering and ventilating, say vegetable garden workers of the Pennsylvania State College.

Plant Trees and Shrubs.—March is the planting month for hardy trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous perennials. This work may best be done now, before the other work on the farm increases.

Test Seed Corn Early.—Good seed corn promises to be scarce and high priced. Testing your own supply now will give you a better chance to get other seed if your own corn does not grow. Delay may mean no corn crop. Use the sand box or the rag doll method.

Sunshine Helps.—Direct sunlight is important in preventing leg weakness in chickens. Be sure your chickens get a large share of this great health giver.

COURT CLOSED THURSDAY

Auman Acquitted of Killing H. H. Gillett—Pinchcock, Also Charged with Murder, Found Guilty of Minor Charge.

The two men charged with murder and tried before the Centre county court last week, were both found not guilty. Frank Auman, of Snow Shoe township, charged with the murder of H. H. Gillett, but as stated in these columns last week, a verdict of first degree murder was not sought. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty. The court directed Auman to file a bond of \$2000 for his good behavior for two years.

John Pinchcock, 18 year old Snow Shoe boy who accidentally shot and killed 15 year old Margaret McDowell, also of Snow Shoe, on September 10, 1924, was acquitted on the charge of involuntary manslaughter on Wednesday of last week, but found guilty of carrying concealed weapons. The shooting happened in the Clarence garage when Pinchcock displayed a revolver, "breaking" it to show that it was loaded. Just as he was in the act of closing the weapon, it was discharged, the bullet entered the girl's body just below the heart, and causing almost instantaneous death. Pinchcock was exonerated by a coroner's jury, but the parents of the dead girl demanded that he be brought to justice. The Court sentenced him to an indefinite term in the Huntingdon reformatory, on the charge of carrying concealed deadly weapons.

Escaped Rockview Convict Captured.

Patey Ponsall, one of two prisoners who escaped Monday evening of last week from Rockview, was captured on Thursday morning at Mansfield and returned to Rockview the same evening. Edward Forstall, who escaped with him, has not yet been captured. Ponsall was recognized by Joseph C. Utter, of the state highway department, when he applied for a job in a Mansfield garage.

Ponsall had 6 to 12 years to serve for felonious rape and attack. Deputy Warden McFarland says his sentence will now be extended to from 18 to 24 years in the Western penitentiary at Pittsburgh.

Printed Stationery for Farmers.

Every farmer who owns his farm ought to have printed stationery, with his name, the name of his post office, properly given. The printed heading might also give the names of whatever crops he specializes in, or his specialties in stock. Neatly printed stationery gives you a personality and a standing with any person or firm to whom you write and insures the proper reading of your name and address. If you wish to write to your congressman or member of the legislature, or if you have a request to make of your county superintendent of schools, or if you wish information from any business house, in any case your letter will have increased weight and receive more and quicker attention if you use printed stationery.

FIRES AT PHILIPSBURG
AND LEWISBURG.

Angeline Jones, Philipsburg. Overcome in Effort to Save Possessions—Three Fires in Lewisburg, on Friday, Destroy Green House, Part of Woolen Mill, and Row of Houses

One woman is dead and another is in the hospital as the result of a fire in the apartment house of Mrs. Jane Harris in Philipsburg, on Friday morning, the origin of which is undetermined, causing damage to about \$5,000.

Mrs. Angeline Jones, aged seventy years, was overcome while trying to carry some of her household possessions from the building and died almost instantly. Another tenant, Mrs. Minnie Harris, suffered a heart attack and is now in the Philipsburg hospital in a serious condition.

The fire started about 8.15 in the upper part of the house and was confined to the third floor. The lower floors were damaged by smoke and water.

Three fires in one day were recorded in Lewisburg, on Friday. The day opened when the greenhouses of Truman H. Martin were destroyed about 1 o'clock in the morning. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a two-story building at the Lewistown Woolen Mill was burned and at about 6:30 in the evening a row of five houses at Fourth and St. Catharine streets was destroyed.

The afternoon fire was in a building at the rear of the woolen mill, where the material is sorted. It is thought that a piece of metal in the wool, striking the machinery, made a spark which caused the fire. The ten employees of this department, together with a number of others in other departments, will be thrown out of work. The building, a two-story brick, was totally destroyed.

In the evening the fire completely destroyed the row of houses at Fourth and St. Catharine streets, with a loss of about \$10,000. A defective flue is given as the cause. Firemen were greatly hindered in their work here, by the low water pressure.

The houses are owned by Mrs. Robert Johns of Mt. Carmel, who owns three; Cyrus Walter and Mrs. Elizabeth Kling. The furniture in the houses occupied by Mrs. Kling and Mrs. Charles Angstadt was lost, but that in the others was nearly all saved.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONS.
TO ENLARGE CAMP
AT SPRUCE CREEK

Local Women's Missionary Societies of Various Denominations Hold Service in Lutheran Church.

The program published by the Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America and Council of Women for Home Missions, entitled "Day of Prayer for Missions," was executed Friday evening in the Lutheran church. Representatives of the Reformed, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Methodist and Lutheran Women's Missionary societies participated in rendering the program, various subjects being assigned for development to individuals, and these were followed by prayers bearing on the subject.

As recalled by the writer papers were read by Mrs. C. W. Booser, Mrs. J. P. Blingman, Mrs. Vernon Godshall, Mrs. W. A. Odenkirk, Mrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Delas Keener, and Mrs. R. P. Campbell.

A strong and enjoyable feature of the program was music, which was under the direction of Mrs. Keener, and consisted of several choruses, the choir having been made up almost exclusively of young people, most of them High school girls. The Junior department was represented in the musical feature by Miriam Mitterling, who rendered a solo, and Betty Wright, Evelyn Coyer and Leabel Bradford, in a trio. Mrs. H. W. Potter, whose musical talent is being much sought and appreciated, in a most beautiful manner rendered a solo entitled "In the Garden." A violin duet by Miss Elizabeth Bartholomew and Vernon Godshall, Jr., and a piano duet by Mrs. Keener and Miss Miriam Huyett composed the instrumental features of the evening. Recitations, the first a passage of scripture, were given by Carolyn Coyer, Sara Runkle, and Jane Campbell, Juniors, and Miss Ruth Blingman.

The meeting was conducted by Mrs. P. H. Luse, assisted by Mrs. S. F. Greenhoe.

PINE GROVE MILLS.

March came in like a lion.

William Gifford, who, starting at \$10.00 a week, at forty was made president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, a five million dollar corporation; Cheung Gum William Wrigley and his son, Phil, who at thirty is the head of the Wrigley concern. But if we were all millionaires, who would build the telephone lines, and fire Wrigley furnaces. Better advocate that we perform the work we are in and be contented.

One of a team of valuable pure-bred Percheron mares owned by William F. Hiseh, near Centre Hall, broke her leg and had to be killed. The team was hitched to a post at Spring Mills railroad station, became frightened, tore loose and ran down the railroad track, and on leaving the railroad fell with the above noted result.

Keep in mind the play by the junior class of the Centre Hall High school, "Engaged by Wednesday," to be given in Grange Arcadia on Friday evening of next week. The young people are giving much time to the preparation of the comedy, and are hoping to be greeted by a full house.

Roadside telephones are to be installed in this section in the near future. These boxes or cabinets are placed at one mile intervals on all main highways. All local calls are free. Inside the boxes are cards giving the names of doctors, garages, police, hotels, etc., which will answer emergency calls. Each box is numbered. When calls are placed the caller tells the operator the number of the box from which he talks. It is thus possible to locate his position on the highway, and this is of particular importance when calls are placed for medical aid.

A feature of special interest is the fact that a key to one box will enable the owner thereof to use any box on any line, no matter in which state it may be located. In each cabinet will be found a directory and electric light which further increases its convenience.

Holders of keys to these telephones are given free towing service from the official garage in the event of a breakdown. For a certain rental auto drivers can secure a key to these boxes, the keys now being leased in this territory by the Penn State Auto company of Bellefonte and State College. A further additional feature is reduced prices on gasoline, oil and accessories.

(Continued from previous column)

by the older people, and many of the farms they cleared are now in the hands of younger generation. Many relatives and neighbors joined in celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary, together with their children and grandchildren, and to partake of the sumptuous wedding dinner. The children are Newton C. Jacob D., of State College; Calvin and Mrs. John Lytle, of Altoona; Annie and Mary Fishburn, of State College; Mrs. Margaret Crompton, of Patton; Mrs. Blanche Hoy, of Waddle. There are also 23 grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren who were present. Many valuable and beautiful gifts were presented the couple, who have been active members of the Reformed church from their youth. After spending the day pleasantly the guests departed with a hearty hand-shake and wishes for many returns of the day.

(Continued on foot of next column)

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST
FROM ALL PARTS.

Rev. M. C. Drumm, of Middleburg, was in town last Thursday.

Efforts are being made to obtain a post office for Juniata Terrace, the new village at Lewistown Junction, where there are 3000 persons to be served.

A Poland China hog raised by John Wehr, treasurer of Union county, weighed alive 555 pounds and dressed 326 pounds. The hams weighed 73 pounds.

Mrs. Margaret Runkle, of Shamokin, visited Mrs. William H. Homan, Friday of last week, after having spent some time with relatives and friends in Bellefonte.

Mrs. Alice Durst and Mrs. George E. Heckman were driven by auto to Williamsport, Thursday of last week, on a shopping trip, by the former's son, Edward Durst.

Coleman Wingard and lady friend, Miss Hazel Carson, of Potters Mills, were Wednesday evening guests of the former's mother, Mrs. Arabelle Wingard, at Coburn.

The Nancy Kimport property, consisting of a house and lot in Potters Mills, was sold at public sale by the agent, G. H. McCormick, to J. Warren Slack for the sum of \$670.

Boise H. Brown, who had been in charge of a grocery store in Philipsburg, is at his old home at Tusseyville. He will be transferred to another section in the near future.

Bequests of \$5000 each are made to the Central Pennsylvania Old Fellows Orphans' Home Association and to the Bethany Orphans' Home at Allentown by the will of Charles Linbach, of Milton.

In referring to the executor's notice being published on the estate of Geo. A. Hipsky, by D. W. Sweetwood, executor, it was stated that the decedent was the father of Mrs. Sweetwood, when the fact is that he was a brother.

The erection of a home for aged women and an endowment fund, for the Geisinger Memorial hospital at Danville are provided for by the bequest of \$400,000 in the will of the late Abigail A. Geisinger. The hospital was originally erected by Mrs. Geisinger in memory of her husband.

Ira Stover, a railway mail clerk, running out of Altoona to the south; Charles Stover, a fireman on the middle division of the Pennsy, living in Juniata; Mrs. Alvin Meyer, of Altoona, and Rev. James Stover, of Montgomery, sons and daughter of Mrs. Eliza Stover, came to her bedside last week while she was in a very weakened physical condition.

Measures are being taken by Union county citizens to induce the State Highway Department to take over the road through the Fourteen-Mile Narrows, also known as the Brush Valley Narrows, from Turkey Inn, in Union county, west to the Centre county line. About five years ago the State Highway Department offered \$3000 for this road, but it was not accepted. Since that time Union county spent \$9000 in upkeep on it.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Blair, of Bellefonte, have taken into their home a boy of four years and adopted him. He will carry the name of Robert Russell Blair. While on a motor trip through Eastern Pennsylvania, Mr. and Mrs. Blair saw the child and at once fell in love with him. The youth is exceptionally fortunate to fall into the hands he did. Mr. Blair is the junior member of the firm of Blair & Son, Jewelers, and Mrs. Blair is an accomplished musician.

From an assistant manager of the Bell telephone office at Bellefonte to the management of the Bell office in Ridgeway was a deserved promotion that came to Roy H. Grove. He will locate in Ridgeway in the near future. The promotion was made possible on account of the Ridgeway manager being transferred to Huntingdon. Mr. Grove has been with the Bell company in various capacities for about eight years, and has always proven himself efficient in his line of work.

Tuesday morning Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Strohecker, of Centre Hall, went to Bethlehem for a stay of some weeks with their son, Clair Strohecker, a Penn State graduate who holds a position with the Bethlehem Steel company in the capacity of an estimator. The parents were called upon at this particular time to take care of their son's home while the junior Mr. Strohecker is receiving treatment in the Philadelphia hospital. It is possible that before Mr. and Mrs. Strohecker return to Centre Hall they will visit another son in Utica, N. Y.

About the middle of November an item appeared in these columns stating that William F. McCoy, then a Bellefonte automobile dealer, had left a notice in an abandoned auto at Leek Haven, stating that he "would end it all." His bride, who has since been employed in the First National bank, Bellefonte, was very agreeably surprised to hear her husband's voice on the telephone within the past two weeks, and inquiry revealed that he was in Washington, Washington county, and had a good position, the result of the telephone conversation being that the young woman went to Washington. His disappearance was due to financial troubles.