



LUTHERAN SYNODS MET MONDAY TO PERFECT MERGER

1500 Churches of State Involved in Plan to End Duplication—Meeting in Harrisburg.

For the purpose of merging all the Lutheran churches in the State of Pennsylvania, with but a few exceptions, representatives of the six synods met in Zion's Lutheran church, Harrisburg, Monday afternoon from 1 to 5 o'clock. More than 1500 congregations, with a total membership of nearly 400,000, were represented at the first effort of the kind to be made in the history of the church in this State.

The various designated officials and committees also represented the largest group ever to have considered mergers since the formation of the United Lutheran Church in America itself in 1918. The conference is the outgrowth of an invitation extended the three synods in the western part of Pennsylvania by the three synods of the eastern section at a meeting of representatives of the latter group held in Reading, November 12.

The synods to participate at the Monday conference were: Pittsburgh Synod, with 316 congregations and 52,477 confirmed members; Allegheny Synod, 146 churches, 21,315 members; Susquehanna Synod, 165 churches and 26,450 members; West Pennsylvania Synod, 160 churches and 42,499 members; East Pennsylvania Synod, 158 churches, 48,373 members, and the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, 589 churches and 191,155 members. The total number of churches is 1534 and of confirmed members 382,269.

At the conference in Harrisburg, the suggested plan of Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, president of the Pittsburgh Synod, served as a tentative method of procedure in bringing about the gigantic merger. According to Dr. Burgess, strictly geographical lines only are to be followed in the new alignments. His method calls for the establishment of three entirely new synods in the western, central and eastern sections of the State, respectively, organized entirely for ease in functioning and administration. This would practically obliterate all existing boundaries which seriously overlap, three and sometimes more synods having churches in the same town at the present time.

Similar mergers have already been effected in the two adjoining States of New York and Ohio within the past year. Neither of these groups, however, compares in size to the merger contemplated in Pennsylvania. The presidents of each of the six synods attended the session, together with appointed committees.

Meeting of Pomona Grange.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Centre County Pomona Grange will be held in Grange Arcadia, Centre Hall, Saturday, January 26th. The morning session will open at 10 A. M.—E. H. Dale, secretary.

SMITH ASKS DEMOCRATS FOR FUNDS

Radio Address Included Request That Popular Contributions Be Made to Wipe Out \$1,500,000 Campaign Deficit Instead of Depending Upon Few Rich Men to Do It—Urges Need for Continuous Activity.

Alfred E. Smith has asked popular contributions to liquidate the \$1,500,000 deficit incurred by the Democratic party in his unsuccessful campaign for president.

In a radio address Wednesday night of last week, Mr. Smith deplored the practice of having a few rich men meet party deficits and also urged the need for continued activity of the party throughout the four years between national elections.

He said he had agreed to turn over royalty rights to a book of his campaign speeches to the national committee as his contribution to the party war chest. Copies of the book will be sent to each contributor who sends in two dollars or more toward meeting the deficit.

An important function of a minority party, Mr. Smith said, was to keep the people informed on what progress was being made toward the solution of national problems as unbiased information could be had from the party in power.

For this purpose he emphasized the need for year-around headquarters for the Democratic national committee "where Democrats throughout the nation may keep in touch with members of congress and the affairs of the nation."

"A political party that polls nearly 16,000,000 votes should be a tremendous factor in the politics of the country and the strength and force of that great body should not be lost by failure to maintain an organization which should enable them to make themselves heard and felt in the affairs of our nation," he said.

Mr. Smith omitted any reference to his own political future. The subject of his speech was kept secret until he began to speak over WEAF and thirty allied stations of the National Broadcasting Company chain.

H. A. HARTLING GETS AN APPOINTMENT

Is Made District Highway Forester for Eight Central Counties and Will Have Office at Clearfield.

H. A. Hartling, of Philipsburg, who recently received the appointment of district highway forester, will enter upon his duties February 1st.

The district comprises Centre, Jefferson, Clearfield, Clinton, McKean, Potter, Elk and Cameron counties, and Mr. Hartling will have his office at Clearfield.

The duties of the highway forester will be to cooperate with the property owners along the highways and to interest service clubs in more beautiful roads; to plant vines and shrubbery on cutaway banks and to plant and maintain trees, to open vistas on mountain tops; to cut away the underbrush, bringing in view beautiful native plants such as hemlocks, laurel, rhododendron; to repair and maintain old trees that are historical landmarks and to assist in cataloguing interesting places to visit along the highways.

Some other States are using cultivated varieties, but it is to be the policy of the new department to use only native stock wherever possible. Some States have planted perennials which have since gone wild and penetrated the fields. It will be the policy of the State to avoid this and to cooperate to the fullest extent with the property owners.

There were many applicants for these positions in which only seven were available. Mr. Hartling was successful in getting the appointment on account of his technical knowledge and twelve years of practical work in the general landscape field.

A Greater Altoona Day to Be Featured In Altoona Booster Stores.

On January 7 of this year, the city of Altoona officially annexed surrounding territory of such size as to double the size of the city and increased the population to almost 90,000, making it the seventh largest city in the State. Members of the Altoona Booster Association are going to feature a big trade event in celebration of the expansion of their city. The event has been termed "A Greater Altoona Day" and will be held on next Wednesday, January 30.

As stated in the advertisement of the Booster Association appearing in this issue, the Booster merchants are going to offer extraordinary values and they mention the fact that the sale is for all of the people in Central Pennsylvania, as well as for Altoona people, and all are invited to attend and share in the good values.

Altoona Booster merchants firmly believe in the trade at home policy and suggest that people give their local merchants first consideration at all times, depending on Booster Stores for the things home stores cannot supply. "Greater Altoona Day" next Wednesday, will be a good time to shop for the home and personal needs that cannot be had in the home town stores.

Game Commission's Power Curbed.

Removal of the "teeth" of the State Game Commission is provided in a bill introduced in the State Senate by Senator Horace W. Schantz, Lehigh county.

The measure would repeal all provision of the game laws giving the commission the right "to open and close the season on deer, decide whether the hunter shall shoot does or bucks and in general to decide on all seasons for game" Senator Schantz said.

The bill was in line with Senator Schantz's pronounced opposition to boards and other agencies of the State government, which have the power to enforce their rulings the same as the Legislature in upholding penal statutes.

Proposed Bridge Legislation.

If two pieces of legislation introduced in the General Assembly are passed, the State will take over all the county bridges of more than 100 feet in length on primary highways as well as all State-aid highways.

The bill for placing the Department of Highways in control of the bridges would make the State responsible for maintenance and reconstruction of the bridges. Presented by Harry E. Himes of Venango, it follows the recommendation of Governor Fisher in his message to the Legislature on New Year's day, for relieving the counties of this burden.

Senator William Clark, of Chester, introduced the other measure. By its provisions, the State Highway Department would be delegated to keep in repair all roads it helped to build, which if approved, would throw an additional financial responsibility on the State.

K. G. E. LODGES GROWING.

Installation of Officers in Lodges at Spring Mills, Madisonburg, Centre Hall and Millheim by District Grand Chief.

The officers of the Castles of Knights of the Golden Eagle of the following dates: January 2nd, Centre Castle No. 169, Spring Mills; January 10th, Madisonburg Castle No. 350, Madisonburg; January 11th, Centre Hall Castle No. 355; January 17th, Millheim Castle No. 351.

After installation at Centre Hall the Spring Mills degree team put on first degree on a number of new candidates, and at Millheim the same degree team put on second degree after installation, which was done very nicely. The boys from Spring Mills deserve much credit for the splendid work performed. More than a hundred members of various lodges were present at Millheim for installation and see the degree work. Wednesday evening of this week Centre Hall K. G. E. degree team put on the third degree on the same new members at Spring Mills, with a greater number of members present. After the degree work the entertaining committee served very delicious refreshments. There is another class of new members being received and will be ready by February 1st for degree. It is the hope of the castles in this district to more than double their membership, as was done in 1928. All castles in this district are very well attended. Centre Hall Castle added 47 new members to their roll in 1928 and with the start they already have it is believed they will double that number.

Following is a list of the officers installed in the various castles:

- Spring Mills Castle.**
 Past Chief Robert Lingle
 Noble Chief E. F. Lee
 Vice Chief Russell Braucher
 High Chief C. R. Stover
 Master of Records Paul Weasley
 Keeper of Exchequer Guy L. Corman
 Clerk of Exchequer Miles Bressler
 Venerable Hermit A. M. Grove
 Sir Herald John Goodhart
 Worthy Bard C. C. Bartzes
 Ensign Garman Motter
 Esquire Clarence Breon
 Worthy Chamberlain Carl Meyer
 First Guardsman Robert Heckman
 Second Guardsman Glen Corman
 Rep. to Grand Lodge M. E. Dressler

Madisonburg Castle.

- Past Chief N. E. Miller
 Noble Chief George Shogers
 Vice Chief G. G. Horner
 High Priest H. L. Grenoble
 Master of Records L. E. Hazel
 Clerk of Exchequer C. T. Rishel
 Keeper of Exchequer C. E. Bartzes
 Venerable Hermit J. W. Strayer
 Sir Herald C. H. Shaffer
 Worthy Bard B. E. Hazel
 Ensign C. U. Strayer
 Esquire C. E. Duck
 Worthy Chamberlain H. S. Duck
 First Guardsman D. Q. Duck
 Second Guardsman James Snavely
 Rep. to Grand Lodge J. W. Strayer

Centre Hall Castle.

- Past Chief Paul E. Bradford
 Noble Chief Bruce E. Runkle
 Vice Chief Fred Stover
 High Priest Paul M. Fetterolf
 Master of Records J. H. Puff
 Keeper of Exchequer C. T. Crust
 Clerk of Exchequer D. M. Bradford
 Venerable Hermit John Runkle
 Sir Herald M. M. Coldron
 Worthy Bard Russell Colyer
 Ensign Paul Martz
 Esquire John Delaney
 Worthy Chamberlain Clarence Walker
 First Guardsman H. E. Bradford
 Second Guardsman Earl Delaney
 Rep. to Grand Lodge W. H. Bland

Millheim Castle.

- Past Chief W. H. Breon
 Noble Chief H. H. Letzbell
 Vice Chief W. H. Bechtel
 High Priest R. M. Foote
 Master of Records E. R. Shreckengast
 Keeper of Exchequer Jas. Reiffeneyer
 Clerk of Exchequer M. L. Breon
 Venerable Hermit F. K. Frank
 Sir Herald C. H. Breon
 Worthy Bard C. H. Breon
 Ensign Reese Auman
 Esquire Phillip Bailey
 Worthy Chamberlain C. O. Muser
 First Guardsman Frank Housman
 Second Guardsman J. H. Crouse
 Rep. to Grand Lodge Jas. Reiffeneyer

THE "TALKIES" HAVE COME.

Expensive Equipment Installed in the State Theatre, Bellefonte.

Talking pictures, the latest innovation in the cinema world, are being shown at the State Theatre, Bellefonte, as announced by the owners, Thompson and Richeleu. The equipment has been secured at a great expense, and the installation at the State will equal that found in much larger cities.

Thompson and Richeleu-owned theatres in Bellefonte and Clearfield are the first towns of this size to install talking pictures.

Talking pictures, Mr. Richeleu said, are divided into three kinds; the talking variety, which is self-explanatory; part talking, in which there is orchestra accompaniment with some scenes in talking, and last, sound pictures, with sound effects and a recording orchestra. The State will present all these types, and the following pictures have been booked for the coming few weeks: "Wings," "Interference," "Ably's Irish Rose," "Varsity," "Almas Jimmy Valentine," and "Brotherly Love."

WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE.

Agitation has started anew to induce the State Highway Department to take over one of two of the roads leading west from Centre Hall, and with this in view the two members from Centre county in the State Legislature—Mr. Scott in the Senate and Mr. Holmes in the House—are being hounded to show their favor to one faction or the other.

The two roads in question are these: The one leading west from the diamond here along Nittany Mountain to Oak Hall, which if adopted would become an extension of Route No. 95, beginning east of Millburg and leading southwest through the Fourteen-Mile Narrows and on through the heart of Brush Valley by the way of Livonia, Rebersburg, Madisonburg to the diamond here.

The other road is what has long been known as the Earlstown road, and also as the Boalsburg road. It begins close to the junction of Route 53, beginning at the Susquehanna bridge below Lewisburg leading through that borough, Millburg, the Penns Valley Narrows, Millheim, Spring Mills, to Old Fort, and Route No. 45, crossing the valley from Potters Mills to Centre Hall. The intersection with the latter route is but a few rods from Old Fort. The road leads southwest to Boalsburg, through that village on to near Pine Grove Mills where it intersects again with Route No. 45, which route leads to Tyrone.

Much as we would all like, it is not probable that the Highway Department will take over both of these roads, and this condition presents a difficult one for Messrs. Scott and Holmes, to whom both factions look to have their choice road win favor, to handle. The selection of either road will make friends of one element and more or less the enemy of the other, regrettable as it is, and possibly prevent the selection of either.

Like in all controversies each group of advocates can and does present merit for their cause, but in the final selection of one of these two routes will be decided—if at all—not so much on merit as on political prestige of the advocate. Even Mr. Holmes and Mr. Scott are human.

With a view of preventing a miniature political catastrophe in Potter Harris and College townships, it is suggested that the advocates themselves come to an agreement as to which road is to be improved, and then ask Messrs. Holmes and Scott to give their selection support in the House and Senate. There could be no question as to the result.

Inspect the Flue.

The flue and the flu should be given special attention these days. The general scarcity of water ought to impress every property owner with the necessity of taking every ordinary precaution against fire possible. More fires originate from defective flues than from any other cause, and for that reason should be frequently and thoroughly inspected. This suggestion should be followed especially by local property owners, owing to a condition well known here.

Your property may be insured, but your carelessness in permitting the use of poorly constructed flues and pipes entering them not properly protected, may work a hazard to others. At no time is inspection of flues more demanded than now when fires must be briskly and continuously. Do your part for fire prevention—inspect the flue.

Men at N. Y. C. Shops at Avis Get Higher Pay.

Hundreds of Jersey Shore and Avis men employed at the New York Central railroad shops at Avis will receive more money in their pay envelopes on the next pay day as the result of an increase of six and two-thirds per cent in the pay schedules awarded in a report which an arbitration board has filed at New York City.

The award was announced a few days ago. The shopmen had asked for \$1.42 more per day.

Inquiry at the New York Central offices at Avis brought the information that notice of the decision had not been received there, but that the shopmen there were undoubtedly included in the 15,000 men affected. From unofficial sources at Avis it was learned that probably 700 or 800 men would share in the increase.

The new wage schedule is reported to be as follows: Machinists, boiler makers, blacksmiths, sheet metal workers and electrical workers who asked for \$7.50 a day are to receive 81 cents an hour; electrical workers who asked for \$7.18 a day are to receive 77 cents an hour; electrical workers asking \$6.70 a day are to get 71 cents an hour; electrical workers asking for \$6.14 a day are to receive 64 cents an hour; carmen now receiving \$6.08, who asked for \$7.50 a day will receive 81 cents an hour; carmen asking \$7.10 a day will receive 74 cents an hour; helpers asking \$5.66 a day will receive 58 cents an hour. Regular apprentices asking from \$4.96 to \$6.96 a day, the latter price to apply to four-year men, are to receive from 38 to 63 cents an hour.

The Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a year.

SWINDLER WEEPS OVER SENTENCE

Brought Back to Centre County As He Finished One Term in Western Penitentiary.

E. C. McFeaters, a former Pittsburgh bond salesman, who in 1922 fled the First National Bank of Spring Mills of \$21,000, pleaded guilty before Judge Fleming, on Friday, and was sentenced to five to ten years in the Western Penitentiary.

McFeaters, who in 1922 made \$320,000 on fake bond sales, forgeries and Liberty Bond manipulations, was convicted in Blair county and sentenced by Judge Baldrige to five to ten years. His term expired January 7, and as he stepped from the penitentiary in Pittsburgh he was met by Sheriff Harry E. Dunlap, of Bellefonte, with a detainer and brought back to Centre county.

When Judge Fleming pronounced sentence on Friday McFeaters broke down and cried.

McFeaters also swindled individuals in Centre county, some in Penns Valley, at the time he sold the Spring Mills Bank worthless securities. One of the banks in the valley crooked by McFeaters recovered a portion of their loss prior to his going south, where he was captured and taken back to Blair county.

Where Is Centre Hall?

Centre Hall—where is it located? The answer is: Latitude, 40 degrees 50 minutes; longitude, 79 degrees 42 minutes, west; elevation above sea level, 1272 feet. These figures are correct, having been furnished the Reporter by the United States Weather Bureau.

A Growing Insurance Company.

The annual statement of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Centre County, of which company George Mitchell is president and Frank M. Fisher is secretary, appears in this issue of the Reporter. There was written during the year insurance in the sum of \$1,451,119, making the total insurance in force at the close of the year \$5,575,823. The cash balance in the treasury was \$6,137.08.

The company had seven fires the damage range of which was from \$191.50 to \$2700, and small fires footed up to \$219.81. The seven major fires were those destroying the property of R. G. Gohsen, damage to house and contents, \$191.50; A. B. Lee, barn and contents, \$2700; Mrs. Kate Hoy, dwelling house, \$1900; Harvey S. Hoy, household goods, \$500; J. I. Yarnell, barn, and contents, \$465; C. E. Frank, cattle killed by lightning, \$400; D. B. Thomas, house and contents, \$1350.

Fight to Share in Astor Estate Is Postponed.

The Orphans' Court, sitting en banc in Philadelphia on Monday, fixed the third Monday in February to hear the petition filed by the heirs of John Nicholas Emerick in an effort to have the Court allow probate of the Emerick will, dated in 1816.

The move to probate the will is preliminary to claiming a part of the great fortune amassed by John Jacob Astor an alleged partner of Emerick, under a purported agreement dated January 20, 1787. The law requires the permission of the Orphans' Court to probate a will after a lapse of 21 years after the death of the testator. When the petition was filed on January 7, the Court tentatively fixed Monday for a hearing.

CENTRE COUNTY HOSPITAL NOTES.

Frederick Love, 12 years old, son of Frederick Love, of Bellefonte, was admitted as a surgical patient.

Mrs. Elizabeth McGowan, of Moshannon, is a medical patient.

Peter Evinicki, of Bellefonte, has been undergoing medical treatment for the past week.

John Smead, of Bellefonte, son of Howard Smead, was admitted as a medical patient.

Mrs. Charles Parker, who had been a surgical patient, was discharged on Tuesday.

Master Earl Walker, 22 months old son of Mrs. Ruth Walker, of Millburg, who had been a medical patient, was discharged on Tuesday.

Mrs. Samuel Stere, of Fleming, on Tuesday was admitted as a surgical patient and was discharged the following day.

Master Ralph Roush, 3 months old son of John Roush, of College township, was admitted as a medical patient on Tuesday.

Elijah Milton, of State College, a surgical patient for a day, was discharged on Tuesday.

Howard Martin, of Bellefonte, who was admitted on Tuesday of last week, expired.

Mrs. Elsie Bottorf and infant, wife and son of John Bottorf, were discharged on Friday.

Mrs. Alfred Stacey, of Bellefonte, is a surgical patient, having been admitted on Friday.

Mrs. Frederick Goss, of State College, is a surgical patient, having been admitted on Sunday.

Mrs. Guy Miller, of State College, who had been a medical patient, was discharged on Saturday.

Samuel Bernstine, one of the partners in the B. & B. store in Bellefonte, who had been a medical patient for a week, was discharged on Saturday.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Frank P. Phillips sold his brother-in-law, Fred Pultz, a Milroy merchant, a new Durant sedan, the past week.

From 3 degrees below zero, Monday morning of last week, to 64 above, on Friday—such is January weather in Central Pennsylvania.

Albert Meyer and children extend thanks to their neighbors and friends for their kindness during the sickness and death of the wife and mother.

Senator H. B. Scott, thank you for copies of the Legislative Journal. The first number bearing date of January 1, 1929, was received Saturday morning.

Mrs. W. E. Arney, of Millburg, recently underwent a minor operation at the Gelsinger Memorial Hospital and is reported in the Millburg Telegraph as "good and expected home in a few days."

Potter township authorities had a car load of cinders shipped here and unloaded and are now debating whether to use them in filling up about the school house at Potters Mills or on roads over which there is light traffic.

A number of Hungarian partridges have been shipped to the State Game Commission, and in time will be released in Rush township, where conditions are thought to be favorable for propagating.

J. D. S. Gast & Son, an almost century-old mercantile firm in Millburg, changed ownership recently. Harry A. Gast sold his interest to Charles Sterling, long connected with the store and the general manager for two years.

A real spring day was Friday after 9:00 A. M. The roads were covered with a coat of ice an inch thick and as smooth as ice could be when the day broke, but during the forenoon the warm air and bit of sunshine put it on the blink.

On Thursday evening of last week Mrs. Robert Bloom entertained the members of the Senior Service Class of the Lutheran Sunday school at her home west of town. Every one present was well repaid for having given the evening over for class service.

The Mrs. Clara Weiser home in Millheim, made vacant by Mrs. Weiser's moving to State College with her son, E. E. Weiser, is now tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Jodon and baby daughter, who formerly occupied the east half of the Burrell home in that town.

Valley Grange Roller Mills, a water power wheat flour plant a mile north of Lewisburg, said to be more than 100 years old, was burned to the ground early Friday morning, entailing a loss of \$10,000. John Stees, owner, was visiting his sick mother at New Berlin. Mrs. James Sussman, who lives near the mill, was awakened by a coughing child and saw the plant ablaze.

Edward H. Miller, for the past number of months in charge of the meat department at the Oriole store on High street, Bellefonte, resigned his position and departed for Altoona, where he will undergo a several weeks period of training before taking charge of a meat department to be opened in the A. & P. store at State College.

The Garbrick motor sled was running full speed on Thursday morning, the first time this winter that conditions were favorable for its operation. The motor sled is driven by a propeller the power for which is furnished by a Ford engine. The vehicle is guided by a steering apparatus that shifts the leading "boob" to right or left as desired. The outfit is novel in many ways and portrays the mechanical genius of its maker, Lester Garbrick, west of town.

Frank McKinney, of Altoona, made a day's visit at the home of his father, Forest Ranger W. F. McKinney, at the State House near Potters Mills, on Saturday. Accompanying him as far as Lewistown was George T. Ritz, also of Altoona. Mr. McKinney is a pipe fitter with the P. R. R. Company, working principally on locomotives. He has been one of the fortunate ones to have had steady employment at a time when hundreds of men were walking the streets in idleness. He reports labor conditions to be better, but still none too good.

The installation of a fire extinguisher, one of a number recognized by insurance companies for their efficiency in the home, office, store, warehouse, shop or any place needing fire protection, will be found a high-class investment in case of fire. There are a number of fire extinguishers that can be hung on the wall or set in a corner and if kept "primed" may prevent great loss. Many fires when discovered in the home have made little headway, consequently if one is prepared to battle the flames at this stage it can be done effectively. In cities and in the larger towns supplied with elaborate fire-lighting equipment, the hand fire extinguisher is not despised, but batteries of them are always carried.