

The Larger Unit of School Organization

The movement for larger school districts, now being severely criticised, is given space in this issue. Without at this time supporting the movement, the communication on the subject forwarded by the Department of Public Instruction is published in full:

The larger unit of public school administration, designed to give greater degree of local control and efficiency in school affairs, is not a new idea in Pennsylvania. It has been considered by schoolmen and others for more than twenty years, and is being presented for approval in the proposed new School Code now before the State Legislature.

First studies were started in 1913 when Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, then State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Education Association appointed a committee of 12. A year later this group recommended adoption of the larger school unit to the limits of "the county where feasible."

For two decades various phases of the plan were discussed at educational meetings but no definite action was taken until the State Educational Commission was appointed in 1931 by Dr. James N. Rule, Supt. of Public Instruction, and a larger unit committee delegated to make a special study. This group, headed by Dr. J. Linwood Eisenberg, President of the State Teachers College at Slippery Rock, considered every angle. They found eleven States with the complete county-wide unit, one with a semi-county unit, and four with optional county unit plans. In recent years the larger unit plan has been recommended in fourteen other States, including New York and New Jersey.

Last November, at the State Education Congress in Harrisburg, after 18 months of study, the commission's larger unit recommended that Pennsylvania's 1200 school districts under 1000 population be merged as the first step toward the larger unit.

Other results of the Educational Commission's findings were made available to the joint legislative committee established by the 1931 Legislature for reorganization of the school laws and to the office of the Attorney General where the new code was drafted. The commission found that the larger unit would be advisable for Pennsylvania, being more efficient and economical and giving better assurance of equal opportunity for children in rural districts.

In brief, the larger unit, as the new code now stands, means that existing school districts of less than 5000 population would be merged to form districts, so far as practicable, of 5,000 to 11,000 population, with a single board of nine directors to conduct the affairs of the resulting larger districts.

Every existing district of 10,000 or more population would remain as it is. Newly set-up districts of less than 11,000 population would be known as districts of the fourth class. The present 2587 districts would be reduced to approximately 500. The principle of the larger unit also would provide bases for more equitable distribution of State aid, it is said.

More Local Control

Approval of the larger unit principle has come from many Pennsylvania men and women not associated with schools or school administration. The Educational Commission includes representatives of taxpayers, agricultural, civic and commercial organizations, the fields of finance, law and business, and federal and State government.

The larger unit would place administration of consolidated school district affairs into the hands of a greatly reduced number of directors having a larger degree of local control, Dr. Rule says. The existing larger, well-organized, and efficiently operated districts have demonstrated their ability to manage their own school affairs.

While publicity has been given to the larger unit principle for Pennsylvania for almost a year, the exact set-up that appears in the new school code was not worked out until recently, and was first announced when the reorganization of school laws was presented to the Legislature as a new School Code on February 6. This has given rise to a number of misrepresentations and misconceptions of the actual proposal, chiefly on the belief that it will necessitate increased building operations and transportation costs.

Mistaken Ideas Prevail

Doctor Rule says this is not the case and is quoted as follows: "Some have mistakenly interpreted the plan as requiring the consolidation of schools, the transportation of children long distances by buses, the abandoning of present buildings, and the erection of new school plants.

"The plan itself involves none of these. Such matters are left to the discretion of the directors of the larger unit as they are now to directors of present districts. The plan in essence provides for consolidation of administration of schools in the hands of approximately one-fourth as many officials as at present with a larger degree of local control."

Members of the Legislature have been asked by Doctor Rule for their criticisms and those of their constituents, which he believes will be helpful "in revising its merits and any needed adjustments to make the plan really serve the needs of your schools."

being prepared in tentative groupings for information of citizens in the various counties. These will not be final, since authority to establish larger district lines is vested in the State Council of Education, if and when the larger unit is provided through legislation.

Following is submitted a tentative grouping of the districts in Centre county. These groupings have been made solely on the basis of the population limits prescribed in the proposed Code.

Comments and criticisms of this preliminary groupings are invited in order that authentic information may be available as to the best possible groupings under the plan proposed:

Population Groupings of Centre Co.	
Burnside Twp.	247
Snow Shoe Boro.	520
Snow Shoe Twp.	2,050
Total	2,817
Phillipsburg Boro.	3,600
Rush Twp.	3,969
So. Phillipsburg Boro.	480
Total	8,049
Chester Hill Boro. (Clearfield county)	786
Total	8,835
Half Moon Twp.	399
Huron Twp.	500
Taylor Twp.	371
Worth Twp.	832
Total	2,102
College Twp.	1,610
Ferguson Twp.	1,549
Harris Twp.	809
Patton Twp.	442
State College Boro.	4,450
Total	8,960
Bellefonte Boro.	4,804
Benner Twp.	1,794
Spring Twp.	3,383
Total	10,181
Boggs Twp.	1,327
Milesburg Boro.	644
Union Twp.	577
Unionville Boro.	304
Total	2,852
Curtin Twp.	715
Howard Boro.	664
Howard Twp.	606
Marion Twp.	419
Walker Twp.	1,041
Total	3,445
Centre Hall Boro.	658
Gregg Twp.	1,500
Potter Twp.	1,284
Total	3,242
Haines Twp.	1,948
Miles Twp.	596
Millheim Boro.	653
Penn Twp.	775
Total	3,472

Liberty Twp., 1,268, will join with Clinton county.

GRAND JURY IGNORES BILL AGAINST GROSS SHOOK

In hearing Commonwealth cases at sessions held by the Grand Jury it threw out the manslaughter bill brought against C. H. Pickard of Clearfield and Warren Long of Howard, whose automobiles collided just west of Snow Shoe on Sunday night, January 1, and resulted in the instant death of Rev. Lewis I. Crain and the subsequent death of his companion, John Wenrick, who were walking along the highway at the time.

Grand Jury found 27 true bills while 7 bills were ignored. The bills ignored included, Comm. vs. Earl Mauck, violating the liquor laws; C. H. Pickard, involuntary manslaughter; Warren Long, involuntary manslaughter; Gross Shook, practicing medicine without registering; George C. Fry, assault and battery with intent to rob; and Robert Urdike, intent to rob.

Two cases were not pressed: John Chasorak and Perry Ganzales, Rockview prisoners charged with serious offenses. Eight cases were not brought before the Grand Jury, the defendants electing to plead guilty at a special session, while in several instances the defendants agreed to settle out of court.

HARVEY ACT WOULD COMPEL RECKLESS DRIVERS TO INSURE

A motoring responsibility measure, similar to laws in operation in sixteen States and six Canadian provinces, now is in the hands of the Senate Committee on Public Roads and Highways. It was introduced by Senator Harvey, Luzerne.

Sponsored by the Penna. Motor Federation, A. A. A. the Harvey bill has the endorsement of the 85 A. A. A. clubs in Pennsylvania. Its objectives are:

To provide an incentive for careful driving; to control or eliminate reckless drivers, and to compel those who have demonstrated recklessness to establish evidence of financial responsibility, as a prerequisite for regaining the privilege of driving. This responsibility, covering a period of three years from the date it is filed, must be in the amount of \$5000 for personal injury or death of one person; at least \$10,000 for personal injury or death of two or more.

SPRING MILLS FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION HOLDS MEETING

A well attended meeting of the Spring Mills Fish and Game Association was held last Thursday night in the Vocational School building.

A number of committeemen made reports for their respective committees. Dr. Thomas, a member of the Fish committee, reported he had a communication from O. M. Delbler, Commissioner of Fisheries, stating that Penns Creek west from Coburn would be taken care of with respect to stocking with brook trout. He also stated the fish pond construction was on a fair way to completion.

Guy Corman informed the members that he had on hand corn and small grains suitable for feeding grain-eating game. The feed was furnished by the State and could be had upon application of members.

A question discussed was whether or not fishing license costs should be lowered. Two views were taken of the question. W. F. McKinney and A. H. Hartwick stated that 75 cents of the license fee goes toward purchasing additional lands by the State Forestry Department, and that since many small and large privately owned tracts are posted, State lands become more and more important each year for hunting and fishing. Dr. Thomas argued that due to present conditions the license fees should be reduced.

At a future meeting several reels of wild life will be shown on the screen as per a proposition offered by Game Warden Mosler. There will be no charge for this display on the part of the State, and the local association will follow out that idea when the reels are shown.

The following committees were appointed: Entertainment, R. E. Sweetwood, H. S. Myles, G. G. Neff, H. E. Erdley, Daniel Daup, Miles Bressler, Game, Guy Corman, Christ Musser, Lee Brooks, Roy Krumrine, A. H. Hartwick, Fish, Rev. D. R. Keener, Tom Kerstetter, B. G. Meyer, Harry Auman, R. G. Myers, Wm. F. McKinney.

The meeting was presided over by J. W. Decker, with B. F. Kennedy, secretary. Nine new members were reported. The next meeting will be held at the same place on March 16th, at 8:00 o'clock.

IMPROVEMENT OF MAIL SERVICE IN THE COUNTY

The mail service in the county is being improved in various sections. A star route service began on Monday between Beech Creek and Orviston, a distance of almost fourteen miles; salary, \$397.00.

The department has engaged W. H. Chapman, of Kato, to carry mail between Kato and Clarence, a distance of 7½ miles, six days a week, for compensation on the basis of \$720 a year, to continue from February 20 to June 30th.

LOCAL L. O. O. F. TO CELEBRATE SIXTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Centre Hall Lodge No. 895, L. O. O. F., is 61 years old, and on Tuesday evening of next week will celebrate the occasion in their hall. No elaborate preparations will be made, however. There will be orchestral music, and refreshments will be served.

Odd Fellows, their wives, and members of the Rebekah branch are invited to be present.

VEToes LAND DAMAGE BILL, AND COUNTIES MUST PAY

The first bill passed by the State Legislature was vetoed on Saturday by the Governor. The bill provided that damages incurred by taking land for widening State highways or laying out new routes should be paid by the State, instead of the county, a measure that would have relieved county treasuries to a considerable extent.

The Governor gave as a reason for vetoing the bill that the Commonwealth could not afford the added burden, which such a change in the law would impose upon the motor license fund. He intimated that he would sign a bill providing that the State Highway Department would be forced to consult county commissioners before relocating or widening State highways.

NIEMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE SERVES THE PUBLIC WELL

D. J. Nieman, of Nieman's Department Store, Millheim, and his daughter, Mrs. Mamolen, have been in New York and Philadelphia during the past two weeks doing the spring buying for this popular store.

The Nieman store has been doing business these many years because of their fair and square dealing with the public at all times. The store keeps up with the times. When the times, as at present, demand the lowest possible prices consistent with good quality, Nieman's store gives just that. Buyers of clothing and furnishings of all kinds throughout Penna. Valley have noticed this fact and have made imparting the good news to their friends.

The statement of truth is never lacking in Nieman's store advertising. Misrepresentations or extravagant claims are not found in their advertising "copy." It is therefore a privilege that the buying public has at its command a clothing store service such as Nieman's Store offers.

To all these statements, this newspaper heartily subscribes.

FEB. COURT TRIAL LIST—CASES FOR JURY TRIAL

The following cases to be heard before a jury will come before the February court, opening on Monday of next week. The cases have been divided into three groups as noted below:

Monday, February 27:

Madison P. Haynes, V. Securities Act; Sherman Breen, F. & B. James Taylor, F. & B. Charles Ream, F. & B. John McKofka, V. D. L. Ralph Seyler, V. Vehicle Code. Nannie Moyer, et al, Agg. A. & B. Wm. Chalot, disorderly house. Wm. Chalot, V. L. L. Alfred Lucas, V. Vehicle Code. James P. Philony, V. Vehicle Code.

Tuesday, February 28th:

James W. King, false pretense. David Bennett, V. Vehicle Code. J. Arthur Wilson, V. Vehicle Code. Frank Wagner, B. E. & L. David Wagner, receiving stolen goods. Hugh Butler, Agg. A. & B. Hugh Butler, A. & B. James Baughman, A. & B. Peter Adominese, B. E. & L.

Wednesday, March 1st:

Wm. Martin, et al, larceny. Amos Stimer, larceny. Edward Flick, larceny. Doyle Woomey, surety of peace. Nathan Kofman, fraud. Caroline Baumgardner, surety of peace.

HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS ATTEND AREA CONFERENCE

The local Tri-Hi-Y clubs attended the conference of the North Central Area, at Montgomery, Tuesday afternoon and evening. Delegations were in attendance from Lock Haven, Williamsport, Montoursville, Picture Rocks, Montgomery, and Centre Hall. The local groups attained the distinction of traveling the greatest distance and also having the largest delegation present.

The feature of the meeting was the banquet, held at the Forrest Tea Room, which was held after the regular business session. Following the banquet, "Jack" Catron, Field Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., gave an inspiring address on the aims of the clubs and plans for further organizations in the North Central Area.

Pupils representing Centre Hall were Isabel Bradford, Beatrice Baumgardner, Flora Backett, Florence Brooks, Betty Elbright, Lorraine Brungart, Laurie Belle McCormick, Anne Wert, Isabelle Jodon, John Spyrker, Hugh Morrow, Reuben Rickett, Jack McClellan, Paul Foust, Richard Ross, Vinton McClellan, Miss Sarah Haines and R. S. Jamison, club advisors, accompanied the groups.

CHURCH REVISES HYMN BOOK; METHODIST WILL PROTEST

After this year, millions of Methodists won't sing the hymns that have pictured heaven as a "crystal city with golden streets."

But Rev. J. Abner Sage, a member of the commission which has revised the hymnal that will be published in 1934 for the Methodist congregations fears there will be an upheaval in the ranks of Methodism when the new book comes out.

"Nearly half the present songs have been eliminated," Rev. Sage, pastor of the Methodist church at Williamsport, said. "They have been placed aside to make way for new hymns which are more in keeping with the church of today."

"Medieval figures of speech caused many songs to be thrown out 'those giving the materialistic conception of futurity, as expressed in hymns relating to heaven and hell, were discarded. "The commission retained songs giving a spiritual conception of heaven rather than those painting a material heaven. We wanted the songs to leave a picture of futurity as one of continuation of character and association with God."

Rev. Sage, who formerly was a professor at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, declined to name the hymns that were dropped, as he explained it might cause a "row."

MAURICE BAUM BUYS CLIFTON THEATRE, HUNTINGDON

The Clifton Theatre, Huntingdon, one of the finest play-houses in the Juniata Valley, and erected by J. Lynn Blackford at an expenditure of \$100,000, was sold by the Sheriff a short time ago. It was fitted out with every facility for the presentation of films, and was elaborate in its appointments.

The theatre and equipment were purchased by the Grange Trust company for \$43,000. A few days later the play-house was purchased by Maurice Baum for \$55,000.

Both Blackford and Baum were former Bellefonte residents. The latter originated the Cathaum Theatre, State College.

Trinity Reformed Church Social

For all members of the church and Sunday school, and their families—Friday, February 24, 7:30 P. M. Refreshments will be served. Come and spend a social evening with us.—Comm.

Sixteen Full Pages of Comics

Sixteen (16) full pages of comics in color—also comic cut-outs and lucky buck, play money for the boys and girls—all with next Sunday's New York American.

PLAN FOR LARGER SCHOOL DISTRICTS MEETS WITH STIFF OPPOSITION

Several hundred citizens of Gregg, Potter, Miles, Penn and Haines townships, interested in the welfare of their respective school districts, gathered at a mass meeting held in the Vocational School building at Spring Mills, Friday evening, to voice their protest at the proposed larger school districts as provided in the new school code.

Prof. O. P. Smith, of Boalsburg, was named chairman of the meeting. The proposed change in the school code which is meeting with so much opposition at this time, is fully explained in another article appearing in this issue.

It appears chief opposition to the larger district plan, as offered by the Penna. Valley citizenry at the recent meeting, was in further consolidation of schools, and reduced appropriation.

There is likewise a fear that politics will play too great a hand in the control of the local school system.

At this meeting a committee composed of Ralph Shook, O. P. Long, W. F. Rishel, and T. M. Zubler, of Gregg, and John Krape, of Haines, was appointed to appear at a public hearing in Harrisburg, on Tuesday, in an effort to thwart the carrying out of the movement.

FOUR ACKNOWLEDGE CRIME BEFORE JUDGE FLEMING

Clifford Miller, 28-year-old Phillipsburg youth, plead guilty to a charge of aggravated assault and battery with intent to rob, before Judge M. Ward Fleming in the Centre county court on Friday morning, and was sentenced to serve four to eight years in the Western Penitentiary at Pittsburgh. In addition to the prison term Miller must pay a fine of one dollar and costs of prosecution. The maximum for the crime is a fine of \$5000 and twenty years solitary confinement.

On Wednesday morning, January 25, Miller assaulted Reese Williams, 55, night clerk at the Hotel Passmore, with a rolling pin in the kitchen of the hotel. He was apprehended by Night Officer Claude Jeffers in his room at the Potter House and confessed to two other prior robberies. The Milk Fund box, stolen from the Phillips hotel, was found in his room.

Steve Stary, North Phillipsburg, who was arraigned for possession of liquor and resisting an officer, was sentenced to pay a fine of one dollar and undergo six months' imprisonment in the county jail on each charge. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Stary was arrested following the admission of a twelve-year-old Phillipsburg boy to the hospital suffering from alcohol poisoning contracted after he visited Stary's shanty while sled riding.

Octavus Catherine and Ted Chilcote, of Phillipsburg and Morrisdale, respectively, were each fined fifty dollars and placed on three years probation on liquor charges.

The Lewisburg chair factory will be reopened and will employ 100 men at the beginning. Stock in the sum of \$50,000 has been sold to Lewisburg residents to accomplish the end.

The borough has been giving work to a number of unemployed men, cutting dead chestnut timber on Nittany mountain, and making payment in relief orders. The timber will be sawed and sold for fuel.

PAUL RUDY KILLED IN GUN BATTLE AT AKRON

Rudy was Charged With Kidnaping Employees of American Stores, Milton—Car Stolen from Murtoff, at Bellefonte, Probable Cause.

Three natives of White Deer, Union county—the Rudy brothers—hold the attention of police today.

Paul, 19, was killed on Sunday in a gun battle which authorities say was precipitated by a holdup attempt.

Melvin is held for questioning after identifying Paul.

The third brother, Russell, went on trial on Monday, charged with assault with intent to kill.

George O. Thompson, of Akron, O., whom Rudy was attempting to rob when officers shot the White Deer man in the throat, was twice shot in the leg while resisting Rudy.

Warrants had been issued February 15 by Muncy State Police for the arrest of Paul and Ollie Rudy, of Akron, charging them with holding up and kidnaping two employees of the American Store at Milton, on Saturday night January 7th. It will be remembered that a Pontiac car stolen from H. M. Murtoff, Bellefonte, was found parked near Earlstown school house, late Sunday night, and that upon investigation a check properly indorsed by the American Store manager, Charles Smith, was discovered in it. The check is supposed to have been a part of the day's receipts Smith and a clerk, Byron Hafer, were about to deposit in a night vault at the First National bank, Milton.

Members of the Rudy family living at White Deer, R. D., also have been recently arrested and charged with receiving stolen goods, after Muncy State police, in a search of their premises found large quantities of various kinds of loot. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Rudy, and son, Harry, were given a hearing several weeks ago and Rudy and his son were held for court, Mrs. Rudy being released on her own recognizance.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Bazaar sale at Centre Hall, next Tuesday.

Part of the first crop of ice from the Flank pond was recently harvested for summer use.

D. A. Boozer dealt his Chrysler-8 on a Buick sedan. The Chrysler was driven about three years.

Grover Weaver made a trip to Altoona one day last week to visit his wife who is receiving medical treatment in that city. He found Mrs. Weaver greatly improved in health.

In the obituary notice of Harry I. Snively, appearing in the Reporter last week, the age of the deceased was given as 81 years, through a machine error. Thirty-one years was the age of the young man.

While February has dished out some zero weather, we have also been served a lot of days that through a window look like June, so long as one kept the eyes from the earth. It appears an upward look is always the best.

Twenty-one employees in the Auditor General's, Banking and Revenue departments were recently dismissed. Four new appointments were made and two transferred to other departments. Centre county job holders were not disturbed.

Rev. W. C. Dunlap and Mrs. Dunlap are at present located in Harrisburg where they will remain for two months. Rev. Dunlap is supply pastor for the Church of the Redeemer (Lutheran) in that city, and will conduct Lent and Easter services.

E. B. Robb, poultry grower of Avis, suffered a \$9,000 fire loss on Thursday morning when fire of undetermined origin destroyed his three frame chicken houses, equipped for raising poultry and 400 baby chicks, with 175 hens. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Wednesday morning of last week, fire broke out in the ceiling above the kitchen at the home of Clement Kuhn, on the White Hall road just south of State College. By tearing up the floor in the room above Mr. Kuhn was able to quench the flames which had gained but little headway.

Mifflin county commissioners have decided to remodel the court house and are about ready to advertise for bids. The improvement will include the provision for a judge's chamber. The public comfort stations in the basement will be also remodeled and made more sanitary and secluded.

Standing by a tree for a whole night in zero temperature, Robert Worthy, of Mifflin county, when found in the morning had both feet and one hand frozen. He had to be literally pried loose from the tree he took hold of when he felt a nervous attack of a type to which he is subject. There was little hope for his recovery.

Legislation proposed by Representative John L. Holmes includes a measure that would permit the exemption of small estates from the inheritance tax; decrease the salaries of senators from \$3,000 to \$2,500, postage allowance from \$150 to \$100, and mileage from five to four cents per mile; making an appropriation to Pennsylvania State College of \$49,000.

One of the nineteen seniors enrolled in Agricultural Education at Penn State, engaged in practice teaching in vocational agriculture schools in the State, is Kenneth H. Boyer, Selinsgrove, who is at Spring Mills at this time. He will return to college classes March 3, after a month in the field. Next summer he will have practice in project supervising in the same school.

The head of the State emergency child health committee, Dr. Samuel McClinck Hamill, is a Centre countian, a son of the late Dr. Robert Hamill, well known Presbyterian minister who served this field from his home at Oak Hall Station. Dr. Hamill is a Pinchet appointee. He is president of the Academy of Pediatricians of the Philadelphia Child Health Association.

These few words of real appreciation were received by the Reporter from Mrs. Martha P. Royer, of Sunbury, a few days ago: "Inclosed please find check for which please send me the Reporter for another year. It is like a letter from a friend to me. It contains so many things that are news to me. I usually am not satisfied until I sit down and read it soon as I receive it, no matter what, else is on hands to do."

Another leghorn pullet, entered last fall in the Alabama Egg Laying contest bids fair to making an enviable record on the trap nests. This bird has produced 116 large eggs during the 123 days of October, November, December and January. She laid 20 in January. This bird was entered by the Kerlin's Poultry Farm of this place and Mr. Kerlin informs us that several other birds have passed the 100-egg mark during the 123-day period. A pullet entered in the contest in 1931 produced 203 eggs during the contest year and laid 41 eggs upon her return to the farm, making a total of 344 eggs during her pullet year. This bird is now one of 48 birds confined to laying batteries on the Kerlin farm and has resumed heavy production in her second year.