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THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

Report of the County Superintendent for 1868.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN THE COUNTY.

New Houses.—Five new houses were erected during the year One in Boggs, one in Brady, one in Penn, and one in Curwensville. These buildings take the places of old ones, and have been built with a view to durability and commodiousness. In respect to size, seats, furniture and general arrangement they are the best in their respective districts. The old idea that any building is respective of location, is a proper place for training the young idea how to shoot," is rapidly vanishing. The house erected at Curwensville is decidedly a model building for others to pattern after. All these new houses, however, are a credit to the directors of their respective districts. Two frame houses were erected in Brady, as mentioned the previous year.

Graded Schools.—In addition to the graded schools of Clearfield and Curwensville boroughs before reported, graded schools in Osceola have been added. There are a few other places which could advantageously have graded schools,—such as Luthersburg and Mahaffey City borough. The advantages derived from graded schools, if properly conducted, are so plausible that I deem it unnecessary to enumerate them.

Houses.—Whole number, one hundred and fifty; containing one hundred and fifty-four schools. It affords great pleasure to note that many of the old ones, during the past year, have been remodeled, and in nearly every instance made comfortable. A few of our schools have been kept open seven months, some six, others four; much the largest number, however, only the usual term of four months.

Furniture and Apparatus.—Of the one hundred and fifty schools, eighty-five are well supplied with good furniture, thirty-one have an insufficiency and thirty-three injurious. A large majority of those in the second class could be well supplied at very little expense. Those in the third class require new buildings. The blackboard surface in many of the districts has been greatly improved, either by remodeling the old ones or substituting new ones. It is earnestly hoped that a greater improvement will be made in that direction the coming fall.

Text-books.—A uniform series of books have been adopted in all the districts, except four. The use of them should be strictly required. Teachers should at the beginning of each term receive a list from the directors of the books to be used. Last fall a committee appointed for that purpose recommended a series for the county, and had it been strictly carried into effect, we have no doubt it would have proven satisfactory, and much good would have resulted therefrom.

Out-Buildings are badly needed in many places. I have taken the liberty in a few instances, to impress upon directors the necessity and propriety of erecting such buildings, especially where there are school houses near villages or dwellings, without out-houses for other places of retirement. There are but few houses with the necessary out-buildings, leaving one hundred and fifty without. This is a fact we are pained to notice, for it shows an over-sight which is hardly excusable.

Qualifications of Teachers.—We have no more gratifying evidence of progress than the earnest endeavors of a large portion of teachers to better qualify themselves for their high vocation. With but few exceptions, our teachers are young, but with their freshness and zeal they may soon rank as first-class teachers. We are encumbered with a few unworthy ones, who have neither the qualifications nor tact for teaching. Such are generally found among the absentees at public examinations or places for improvement.

Teachers' Salaries.—The salaries of teachers are about the same as last year. While some districts raised the salary, others reduced it. We noticed in a few instances the best qualified teachers received the highest salaries. This is a step in the right direction, and we trust other directors will follow the plan. So long as poorly educated teachers receive the same salary as those who have expended time and money towards better preparing themselves, we *must* expect the schools will be filled with poorly qualified teachers, and the energetic seeking districts where they receive better encouragement.

Visits of Directors.—In looking over the records of the two past years, I find that more visits have been made by directors during the past year than in the former one, thus showing an increased interest in education of this county. In a number of districts the secretary has been employed as a local superintendent, to visit the schools, once or twice a month, which has resulted in good. In others, they go as a body, or a number of houses are assigned to each to visit. I find the visitation of directors has a salutary effect.

General Interest Manifested in Education.—The interest manifested generally, not only by the directors, but the citizens, is of the most encouraging character. The friends of education having observed the progress of teaching for the past two years, in this county, are ready to assist in every way towards further advancing the public profession. It is true of this county, as well as of others, I regret, that it has its *"croakers,"* who are opposed not only to the progress of the school system, but to everything that has for its object the welfare of society. I am happy to say, however, that this class of men are growing beautifully less as the standard of teaching advances. I would refer a due to the directors to be here, that as a general rule, they are liberal and energetic, and by their zeal and the prosperity of the schools in their respective districts have been in a great measure promoted. Many of the directors deserve great credit for their praiseworthy efforts to put forth in the discharge of their arduous but thankless duties. Perhaps the most encouraging indication of a growing interest in education is the establishment of several select schools in the various parts of the county. These schools are generally conducted by experienced and competent teachers where many of those who desire to become teachers may receive the proper instruction.

EDUCATIONAL WORK DONE BY SUPERINTENDENT.

Examinations.—Twenty-two public and eight private examinations were held. One hundred and fifty-one provisional certificates issued, one professional, (to Thomas H. Murray, Esq.,) six endorsed from other counties, and eight applicants rejected. Much interest was evinced by teachers, directors and spectators during the entire examinations. The directors, or a part of them, were present at all the examinations, which was gratifying as well as beneficial; as the board could readily select the teachers best suited for their respective schools. One hundred and seventy-eight visits to schools—an average of three hours each; 279 official letters written; 1,718 miles traveled on official duty; taught a five-months' Normal School, an average of eight hours per day; and was engaged officially during the year, 295 days. I leave it with the people to judge whether I have performed my duty or not.

Visitations.—All the schools that were in operation while I was in the districts were visited, and a few a second time. One hundred and four visits made in the presence of directors. In three instances they became so interested, that they accompanied me to the adjoining districts. I was also accompanied by *many* of the citizens. Visits by the County Superintendent are no longer dreaded by the pupils. On many occasions we have been told by the parents, that their children were desirous of being present at the time of our visits. I commenced the visitation of schools immediately after the 1st of November, (the close of the public examinations,) and continued it until the middle of March. The course pursued was nearly the same as the previous winter.

Having been treated with great kindness and generosity all over the county, by directors, citizens and teachers, I deem this a fit time and opportunity to return my sincere thanks for the many favors received at their hands.

Institute.—A County Institute was held at Curwensville during the last week of September. The exercises consisted of class-drills, essays, discussions and lectures. The institute was the largest ever held in the county, and I think much good was accomplished.

Normal School.—The Normal School in Curwensville, mentioned in my last report, continued until the 1st of October. I again opened one, in Clearfield borough, on May 11th, to continue for eleven weeks. Although met with considerable opposition, by a clique, and hence was compelled to labor under many disadvantages, the school nevertheless proved a perfect success. Fifty-three students were present, forty-six of whom purpose teaching the coming winter. I was again assisted by Prof. I S. Geist, of Marietta, who was earnest in the discharge of his duties, and thereby not only gained the good will of the teachers, but made many friends throughout the county.

EDUCATIONAL WORK DONE BY OTHER AGENCIES.

In addition to the Clearfield Academy—which is in a flourishing condition, under the direction of Prof. P. L. Harrison—there is now established in Clearfield borough, a first-class Ladies' School, under the control of Miss Hattie Swan, who has very few superiors in the profession. Many Select Schools are also springing up all over the county. All these educational means will, sooner or later, assist in the preparation of teachers. By such aids much good will, I hope, be accomplished.

Pulpit.—The clergymen have said and done more in favor of the common schools than formerly; yet not so much as they should have done. No class of men should be *more* interested in the spread of intelligence among the masses; for the labors of clergymen are appreciated and rewarded proportionate to the amount of intelligence in their community; hence, if they are alive to their *own* interests, they will, at least, give two educational lectures from their respective pulpits each year, and thereby exert an influence in behalf of intelligence and assist in dispelling ignorance.

Press.—The general tone of the press is friendly to the cause of education, and it has given me a general and hearty support in my efforts in behalf of the schools; for which the editors have my sincere thanks.

OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF IMPROVEMENT.

We have but little now to suggest from our former report. Some of the obstacles then mentioned have been to a certain degree removed. The interest manifested by directors, patrons, and teachers, has been greatly increased, and is productive of much good. The greatest obstacle is the want of sufficient money to carry on the schools. In a number of districts the thirteen mills allowed by law to be raised is barely sufficient to keep the schools open four months; and in some, even to do this, directors must pay low salaries, and hence secure poor teachers I would urge upon directors the importance and necessity of grading teachers' wages according to their qualifications and success in teaching.

MEASURES CALCULATED TO PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT.

1st. The school term should, by law, be six months, instead of four. 2d. The State appropriation should be increased to eight hundred thousand dollars, and be divided in proportion to the number of children in the State, between the ages of six and twenty-one. 3d. "Reduce the number of directors to three, make them sworn officers, compensate them for their services" and hold them responsible for all losses sustained by the district through their neglect.

Conclusion.—I believe that the people of the county will bear me out in making the assertion, that more work has been performed and greater progress made during the past two years than in any *term* since the establishment of the County Superintendency. The work, however, is not *all* done, much remains yet to do. I would then say to the friends of education who feel the same interest as myself, let us gird on the armor anew and unite in furthering this noble cause; for by the education of our children, more than by any other agency, our future destiny as a nation is to be determined; and as this interest is sustained or neglected, so will our nation rise in grandeur and power, or sink.

GEO. W. SNYDER,
County Sup't.

The Effects of Paper Money on Laboring Men.

The following are plain figures, which every day-laborer, and every taxpayer, can understand. "A Laboring man" writes the following to the Bangor (Maine) *Democrat:*

For four days' work in 1859 I could buy an excellent barrel of flour. For an equally good barrel now I have to work eight days.

For one day's work in 1859 I could buy five pounds of tea. For same day's work I can now buy but two pounds.

For one day's work then I could buy thirty pounds of sugar. For a day's work now I can get but fifteen pounds.

For a day's work in 1859 I could buy eight pounds of tobacco. For a day's work now I can buy but three pounds.

For a day's work in 1859 I could buy fifteen pounds of coffee. For a day's work now I can buy but five pounds.

For one month's work in 1859 I could clothe myself and family for one year. To do the same now I am obliged to work two months and a half.

I might thus go through the whole list of articles that a laboring man and his family consume. The fact is that we are permitted to enjoy but one-half of the fruits of our labor; the other half goes to the public treasury.

Is it not time for me and fellow-laborers to look around us, ascertain the cause of this robbery of labor, and apply the remedy?

AN OLD DODGE.—The Radicals have at last reached the hight of impudence. It is impossible for them to climb any higher in that direction. They now pretend to be highly scandalized at the alleged connection of General Blair with army contracts, and are manufacturing any quantity of falsehoods in reference to the Democratic candidate for Vice-President. During the war they lived upon public plunder. Some of the same men now whining about General Blair, grew rich by swindling the government, and stopped at nothing to fill their pockets with the people's money. Many of their own friends are now in the penitentiary; and Mr. Dawes publicly told them, on the floor of the House, that the Republican party had stolen more in one year, than the whole expenses of Mr. Buchanan's administration amounted to in four. In order to divert public attention from their own rogueries, they are now clamoring against honest men, and thus hope to hide their own criminality from observation and punishment. The ostrich, when pursued by the hunter, sticks its head in the sand, and, leaving its body exposed, thinks itself safe. So do the Radicals, but the trick won't answer. The Pharisees must first take the beam out of their own eyes, before they attempt to remove the mote from their neighbor's."—*Age.*

In the Democratic convention at Chicago, in 1864, a resolution was adopted to the purport that four years of war had failed to restore the Union, which the Radicals now quote and make fun of. Nevertheless, it is a fact that not only four years of war failed to restore the Union, but three additional years of peace under Radical rule have also failed to restore the Union, for at this day the Union is still virtually dissolved. But the other day the Radical Congress went thro' the farce of *admitting* five of the Southern States, thus, by their own official act demonstrating what the Democratic convention had declared. The Democrats were right, and it comes with ill grace from a Radical to attempt to ridicule said resolution. He thus exposes his meanness or his ignorance, and most likely both.

The *Age* says:—The prospects of an over whelming Democratic triumph in October next in Philadelphia, are increasing daily. The election of our whole ticket, one of the best ever nominated, is now "a fixed fact." Hundreds of voters who never before acted with us, will this year cast their ballots for Daniel M. Fox, the Reform candidate for Mayor; and, while every other portion of the ticket commands the confidence and support of the masses, the growing popularity of Furman Sheppard, our candidate for District Attorney, insures his election by a tremendous majority over Charles Gibbons, the bitter Radical and opponent of Philadelphia interests. The people want "peace," and they know the best way to secure it is to vote the Democratic ticket.

A Startling but "Loyal" Confession.

We have often referred to the fact that the party in power was confiscating the property of our people while wearing the cloak of loyalty. In proof of our allegations we now call to the witness stand Sen. Wade's right hand man, E. B. Ward, of Ohio, a leading Radical, and President of the National Manufacturers' Convention. This convention, keenly feeling the robberies perpetrated upon the people and themselves by the Rump Congress and its bureau agents, authorized Mr. Ward to investigate the cause of this excessive taxation, and suggest a remedy. This he has done in the following circular letter, which he addressed to every Rump Senator and member. Read it:

WASHINGTON, Jan 16, 1868.

SIR: The conviction is forced upon every observer that the people of the United States, who now pay for local, State, and national governments nearly twice as much *per capita* as any other people in the world, are becoming earnestly restive under their burdens. As a representative of the manufacturers of the United States, including the Iron and Steel Association, I wish to call your attention prominently to a few of the reasons why this restiveness and anxiety exists.

Aside from the public debt, pensions, and bounties, all of which the people will cheerfully pay, we find the Secretary of the Treasury asks for appropriations, as follows:

For the War Department, exclusive of bounties and pensions	$95,000,000
For the Navy Department	36,000,000
For Civil Service	52,000,000
Total	$183,000,000

The whole expenses of the Government for the same service in 1860 was—

For Civil List	$7,077,000
For War Department	16,562,000
For Navy Department	11,514,000
Total	$35,154,000
Difference between the estimates for 1868 and the actual cost of the same items in 1860	$147,846,000

The estimates for 1868 are over five and one-third times as great as the actual cost of the same service in 1860, while our national wealth and population have increased but about fifteen per cent. since that period. The inquiry becomes eminently pertinent, Why does this country in time of peace, with no prospect of war, require five times as much expenditures, in proportion to its population, for the army, or the navy, or of the civil list, than before the rebellion? Why is it that ten thousand men are under pay at our navy yards, at a cost of $10,000,000 per annum, while the Government is selling its ships, and when the commercial tonnage we have to protect is vastly less than it was before the war? The belief is becoming universal that most of the men are kept for political, and not for practical, purposes. Is it not plain that the war has fastened upon the country a vast horde of employees and contractors in every department, who are supported from the public treasury, and at the expense of the tax-paying community, thousands of whom are of no practical benefit to the Government? There is a large force of revenue cutters on the lakes and at sea, the gross benefits of which would not pay for the fuel that one of them uses. The Treasury Department admits its utter uselessness, and pays over one and a quarter million of dollars per annum for its support.

Our system of taxation, conducted as it is by men whom the Secretary of the Treasury admits are too corrupt to collect the legitimate revenues belonging to the Government, is used, in numerous instances, to oppress the ignorant and to relieve the knave from fair taxation. Why are these abuses so common here and so rare in despotic Europe?

Our foreign trade has drained this country of its precious metals, and is still taking every dollar produced from our rich mines. It has taken over a thousand millions of our securities, and is steadily creating a foreign mortgage on our whole national estate.

We have imported during the year 1866, over $300,000,000 of silks, $67,000,000 of wool and woolens, $30,000,000 of cottons, and $20,000,000 of iron and steel, while our own factories and forges have been comparatively idle. While our ability to pay taxes has diminished rapidly and largely, the demands upon us are kept far above what the real interests of the nation seem to require.

The people demand an early repeal of all taxes on American productions, except luxuries, and such an adjustment of the revenue laws as will secure to American citizens the benefits of National industry.

They especially demand that men who are to be intrusted with the money of the Government shall be thoroughly examined before appointment, and that fitness and honesty shall be essential elements for their confirmation.

History with all its warnings has been impotent to divert this Republic from the quicksands that now surround it, and upon which all former Republican Governments have foundered. Nothing but wisdom and firmness can now avail to shake the dragon of official corruption from the National throat, and the people look to every member of Congress to do his duty. Should this government pass wholly into the hands of its enemies, no one can predict the humiliating troubles and disasters yet in store for its earnest friends. But a restive people, suffering under present evils, may be led to commit the destinies of the country to those whose hands are yet stained with our blood, and whose history shows that no barriers that laws or constitution present will deter them from accomplishing the behests of their leaders.

I sincerely beg your indulgence for the earnest expressions I feel impelled to use; but the cause and the occasion seem to warrant the use of liquid fire, if by such means Congress can be but partially impressed with the duties and the perils that demand their attention.

Respectfully,
E. B. WARD.

THE WITNESSES' FATE.—Divinity from the beginning decreed that the way of the transgressor should be hard This is being fully demonstrated every day, and in no instance more emphatically than in the murderers of Mrs. Surratt. The Petersburg *Index* says: "She was hanged as an accomplice in the murder of Lincoln. The testimony on which she was convicted was that of four men—Baker, Montgomery, Cleaver, and Conover—precious scoundrels. Baker is now dead; Montgomery is now in prison for embezzlement; Cleaver has been convicted of an infamous offence, while Conover is serving out a term in the penitentiary. Preston King, who prevented Mrs. Surratt's daughter from seeing the President in behalf of her mother, committed suicide by drowning in the North river, while Lane, who supported King in his conduct towards Miss Surratt, shot himself in St. Louis."

Keep the list open! There is Speed, and Holt, and Bingham, and Stanton, all guilty of her murder! Their turns will come, by and by.

IT WONT DO.—The mongrel's are trying to cheer up their disorganized and demoralized forces, by telling them that the New York *Herald* predicts the success of Grant and Colfax. They forget to tell them that the same paper, in 1844 said that Jimmy Polk would be the worst beaten man that ever run for any position—that in 1852 it said that Gen. Scott would be elected by an overwheling majority, and in 1856, predicted the success of Fremont beyond a doubt. And its prophecies this year in regard to the success of Grant, will hold just about as good as did those others. If Grant was not the candidate of the bondholders, the *Herald* would declare as it did a few days before his nomination, that he "is not blessed with capacity enough to preside over a town meeting."

Radical economy is beautifully illustrated by the stationery account of the Rump House of Representatives at Washington. For 1868 it amounted to $99,650. The same account for 1864 was $38,600, an increase in four years of $61,050. One of the items of the account during the second session of the Fortieth Congress was 2,786 penknives, at a cost of $5,620, being about fourteen knives apiece for each member. Other items exhibit the same reckless extravagance, but Congress being "loyal," the people must not complain at this foolish waste of the public funds. White men, pay your taxes!

GOING SILENTLY.—The New York *Times* (Rep.) says that the Republican party has not half so much to fear from the large numbers who are *openly* leaving its ranks, as it has from the still greater number who will go *silently* to the polls and cast a square Democratic ticket without letting any one know how they have voted! Yes, that is it; there are thousands of men in the ranks of the Radicals who are thoroughly sick and disgusted with the doings of the party, who will go SILENTLY to the polls and vote against them in the coming election, because they fear the ridicule and abuse of their leaders.

HOWL, WHY DON'T YOU?—Seventy-seven white soldiers, belonging to the 12th Infantry, residing in the Fifth ward in Washington city, whose votes in the last election were not counted because they were cast for the Democratic candidate, have petitioned Congress, praying for the same rights as are granted to negroes. Grant's keeper, Washburne, and the rest of those wonderful Radical friends of the soldier, are keeping very quiet about this petition. Why don't somebody howl about this disfranchisement of the soldier?

Horace Greeley says of Thaddeus Stevens:

"No swindler that the world has known ever perpetrated a fraud so gigantic as that he meditates."

As a Republican opinion of the honesty of the leader of the Republican party that will do. Old Thad retorts by calling the *Tribune* a "half-secession" paper, and by declaring that a majority of the journals of that party are "in the pay of the bondholders." The "Old Commoner" has a proper appreciation of both the patriotism and the honesty of Radical newspapers.

Forney's Press pronounces Judge Scofield's late speech in Congress upon the Radical policy, "the clearest presentation of the subject ever made." Forney is so complete a toady that everybody who knows him will understand just about what such a puff is worth, and be able to calculate nearly its exact cost. What do the people of this district think of their representative when he has become so low in the moral scale that he is puffed by Forney?

Taxed on whatever is pleasant to see,
To hear, to smell, to feel or to be.
Taxes! taxes! nothing but taxes!
Grinding our noses as sharp as axes.
AND WHAT ARE THE TAXES FOR?
Why—the Freedman's Bureau to keep in repair,
So that Radical loafers can each have a chair,

The Clearfield Republican.

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GEO. B. GOODLANDER,
Editor and Proprietor.