

A MILL ON THE SCHOOL TAX.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD AGREE TO THE INCREASE.

Eleven Thousand Dollars Expended For Free Books Necessitating a Larger Tax Rate. The Building of New Schools Deferred. Superintendent Beatty's Report.

The April meeting of the Lancaster city school board was held on Thursday evening in common council chamber, with the following members present: Messrs. Brown, Bernard, Breneman, Cochran, Darmstetter, Ebermen, Erisman, Evans, Griest, Hartman, Heeger, Kaatz, Lippold, Lohry, Marshall, McConomy, McCormick, McKilligott, McKillips, Ochoa, Post, Rath, Shirk, Warfel, Wohlson and Dr. Wickerman, president.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mr. Evans, of the finance committee, presented the bill for supplies furnished during the past month, and on his motion the treasurer was directed to pay the same.

Receipts and Expenditures. Mr. Evans presented the following as the estimated receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year:

Table with columns for Estimated Receipts and Estimated Expenditures. Includes items like Dry tuition, Night tuition, Principals on leave, and Salaries.

Mr. Evans stated that as the old school buildings will be used for one or two years he moved that the committee on hygiene be instructed to report what alterations, if any, are necessary to give the schools proper ventilation.

Mr. Eberman moved that a committee of five be appointed to report on the necessity that compels them to increase the tax rate from 3 to 4 mill, at the present time, but the action was deferred.

The said action will cost about \$11,000, but the school board has no authority to make an appropriation without the action of the city council.

Mr. Ocho, of the night school committee, reported that all the night schools of the city were closed on the 15th of March.

The chairman of the visiting committee reported that everything is progressing favorably in all the schools.

City Superintendent's Report. Following is the report of the city superintendent for the month of March:

Lancaster, Pa., April 5, 1888. To the Board of School Directors.

Gentlemen:—Your city superintendent submits the following report of the public schools for the month of March:

The average attendance was 242 in the high schools, 318 in the grammar, 625 in the intermediate and 1,650 in the primary.

The number of pupils absent was 57, the average percentage was 93.7.

The number of pupils present at the teachers' meeting was 69.

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A LETTER FROM FLORIDA.

SOME OF THE FEATURES OF LIFE IN THAT SOUTHERN STATE.

A Large Number of Northern Frogs Visit the Resort During the Winter—How a Business Was Conducted—The Frogs Being Harvested.

To the Editors of the INTELLIGENCER.

Lake Helen, Fla., April 1.—Well, we still live, having survived the rigors of another Florida winter, and what the winter has been remarkably mild, even for Florida.

We have had a few slight frosts, but nothing like a frost except for single night, and that was in November. As I read of your terrible blizzards and snow storms; of your trains buried in, telegraph poles down, and people perishing from cold even in the streets of your great cities, I shuddered in sympathy, and thanked God that I was in this land of perennial bloom and genial sunshine.

We are now in the full flush of spring, and have been for weeks. As I write I am sitting in a hammock, with a fan, and a large umbrella. Its branches cover a circle of fifty feet, and where they spring from the trunk I have constructed a rustic seat—a delightful place to read and write.

Around me are fine old oaks, and in their limbs are many nests of birds, and in the making a cathedral-like shade under their overhanging boughs. Close by is a huge oleander twenty five or thirty feet high, bearing millions of buds and a few beautiful double pink blossoms.

A few yards away I see pomgranate trees with their rich red flowers. Here on my left is a large orange myrtle which will soon be covered with beautiful soft sprays of bloom.

Back of me are four large fig trees that have just put on their beautiful light green leaves. Soon I shall see the little figs shooting out from every twig. It is a curious thing that figs produce fruit without any visible blossom.

A little to my right are two large grape arbors on which the succulent vines are beginning to put on their leaves—they are late sowers. Our cottage is a few rods away, in the newer portion of the grove. There is a lawn in front and on the sides that has been green all winter.

A large bed of phlox is a mass of brilliant bloom, and there are beautiful roses, bunches of sweet yucca, sweet scented white violets, purple, red and white geraniums in great profusion, brilliant scarlet geraniums, and various other flowers. Some of these have bloomed all winter.

We have been feasting on strawberries for two months, and shall have them for two months longer. Children pick them for us for three cents a quart, and we get from our home pick about 30 quarts a week. The only thing we grow in the market for strawberries this season, being readily sold at 10 cents for quarts and 25 cents for half bushels.

I shipped my last box of oranges some weeks ago. I sold some at home, but sent most of them to Philadelphia and Baltimore, and various other cities. The oranges were in fine condition, and very fair prices. The trees are still in bloom; and have been for weeks, giving promise of a large crop next winter. If every blossom fruited there would be millions of oranges on some trees. In my garden I have had delicious cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, turnips, etc. We had had ripe tomatoes a few all winter. Immense heads of cabbage are now ready for use, and some of my neighbors are digging their Irish potatoes. Mine are a little late. I give these details that you may realize the difference between your seasons and ours.

TO A BARBEQUE. We have just passed an excellent election to determine the location of the county seat. The leading candidates were De Land and Lake Helen, and the result was in favor of De Land. About week ago I attended a barbeque at New Smyrna, in the interest of Lake Helen. The crowd was large, and various other things were cooked, bread, crackers, and coffee. The beef, instead of being roasted whole, like a turkey, as I had seen it done at the North, was quartered and roasted or broiled on a sort of gridiron. A trench was dug about two feet deep, two-and-a-half feet wide, and three feet long, and the coals were piled on both sides, so that the flames would blow over and through the wall of live coals. I did not eat any of them, but no doubt they were good. Oysters are plenty at New Smyrna. When the tide is out you have only to step down into the channel of the river (the Hillsborough) and pull them up by the necks on which the meat rested and in the bottom a fire was built. The fish was cooked in the same way. The oysters—several bushels of them—were built up into a wall on a plank, and palm-leaf and other inflammable material were piled on the windward side, so that the flames would blow over and through the wall of live coals. I did not eat any of them, but no doubt they were good. Oysters are plenty at New Smyrna. When the tide is out you have only to step down into the channel of the river (the Hillsborough) and pull them up by the necks on which the meat rested and in the bottom a fire was built. The fish was cooked in the same way. The oysters—several bushels of them—were built up into a wall on a plank, and palm-leaf and other inflammable material were piled on the windward side, so that the flames would blow over and through the wall of live coals.

A SPECIAL SHOW. Haywood and Moore and Needham and Kelly's Combination at the Opera House.

Last evening Haywood and Moore and Needham and Kelly's specialty company, composed of five comedians, gave a very successful performance at the Opera House for three nights. In the gallery there was quite a large crowd and there was a very fair audience down stairs. The performance opened with a sketch entitled "Wah-hoo," which is something of a character, yet it seemed to please the audience. The comedy was in the sketch. The comedian, Miss Carrie Day was rather weak as a serio-comic and May Stanton, who was seen later in Irish specialties, did not create much enthusiasm. Needham and Kelly are the cards of the show. They are a strong pair of Irish comedians, and besides having many new specialties, they do a good deal of good acting that almost shakes the house, while it sits up the audience. Van Leer and Barton are a very clever pair of knock-about song and dance men, and they do some difficult work. George F. Mayo dances while playing the banjo, and does fairly well. Tom Haywood and Mattie Davidson were seen in a sketch, in which they introduced songs, duets, etc., with success. The show closed with a comedy entitled "McQuack's Tea Party." To-night the bill will undergo some changes.

Many of the citizens remember the old "Eagle" saloon, which stood where the McCrean house now is on North Queen street. In 1858 Tom Haywood, of the above company, was one of the stars of the variety theatre which was run in connection with the saloon. Benjamin Witmer was then proprietor of the place, and Haywood tells a funny story of his experience on a "burn storming" visit to Quarryville, to which place Witmer once took them to perform in a carriage shop. They did not get back to Lancaster for several days, after undergoing many hardships. Haywood has been in Lancaster but once since that time.

500 Paid For A Dog. From the Little Record.

At the sale of Remsen Shelly, at Union Square, last Monday, a New Foundland dog was sold for \$50.

THREE COMMUNICATIONS.

REPLIES TO CHARGES OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES AT THE PRISON.

Messrs. Burkholder, Warfel and Griffith Have Something to Say of the "Bad Bill" and the Leathers Transaction of Inspector Nisley—The Propositions Made.

EDITORS INTELLIGENCER—In your issue of the 5th inst. you publish an article headed "Trouble at the Prison," and stated in your headlines that there are irregularities which need explanation.

As I have been clerk at that institution for six years and my books and conduct have been impugned by your publication, I think it due to myself to give your readers a statement of the facts in the matter.

As to the amount due the county on the prison books, the fact is that during the administration of Keeper Burkholder there was always a considerable amount due on the books for the reason that much of the product of the labor of the prisoners was traded to parties who furnished the prison with supplies. For instance, R. K. Fabneck, Bard & McKroy and other merchants, who settled annually, bought carpets in large amounts, and the prison purchased from them dry goods. Mr. Fabneck's accounts were often run over, \$1,200 a year.

Messrs. Artman & Treidler, of Philadelphia, supplied the prison with carpet chain and rags; they take carpet in exchange. Their account amounts to \$5,000 per annum. The net cash profit to the county on the carpet department last year was \$8,887.

When I went to the prison, the carpet sales amounted to about 5,000 to 7,000 yards per year. Last year the sales were over 50,000 yards.

Your report says that the committee says there are about \$5,000 of bills due the county not much of which is collectible. On that subject I will make the following proposition: I will take the books and amount of the prison and pay cash for them in 30 days from transfer on the following terms:

The board to transfer to me all book accounts included in the inventory taken in November last, and all accounts on the books from the date of inventory to April 1st, 1888, when I left the prison.

I will upon the transfer of the books give a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to pay the full amount of the accounts as above specified at the end of thirty days.

During the past year, my services have been inquired of a number of business firms in this city and they tell me that my compensation in this office is less than fair to myself.

I have been in business in Lancaster since 1855, and I presume that business men generally would agree that the charge against me made by this committee is incorrect. I make the above offer, however, to convince the taxpayers they are utterly false. And in this offer I include not only accounts for goods sold by myself, but also accounts for other heads of departments.

During my term as clerk at the prison, not one of the hundreds of persons dealing at the prison ever questioned the accuracy of my books. Even Levi Senneig, who refused to pay his bill whereby it became a lien against the prison, when I have inquired of a number of business firms in this city and they tell me that my compensation in this office is less than fair to myself.

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ANOTHER NATIONAL PARTY.

IT COVERS EVERY STATE AND TERRITORY IN THE UNION.

The Principles That Are the Foundation of This Embryo Political Organization—It Will Attempt to Elect Judge Gresham to the Presidency.

CHICAGO, April 6.—The Mail to-day, with reference to a story published in its columns some time ago of the existence of an oath-bound secret organization, which had for one of its objects the election of Judge Gresham as president, says that the organization now covers every state and territory in the Union; has councils or "companies," as they are called, in two-fourths of the important towns; has twelve branches of the organization in Chicago more than a hundred in the state of Illinois—The National Order of Veterans.

Continuing, the Mail says that it is without doubt true that Judge Gresham knows nothing whatever about it, and that the constitution of the body does not explicitly declare the nomination and election of Judge Gresham to be the leading motive of the organization; but that movement was started in Gresham's interest solely because the founders of it thought him to be the fittest man for the position. His name was not incorporated in the constitution because some unforeseen event might render it impossible to obtain his consent to accept the honor if tendered him. The following extract from the constitution outlines the principles of the organization:

"To maintain the Declaration of Independence as the foundation of our principles. The preservation of our country from foreign interference in our necessary and land systems of finance and land. No membership with those who hold allegiance to any foreign power—claiming citizenship, but alien at heart. Opposition to contract pauper emigration for the purpose of destroying American labor. Our own industries first, last and always. Our public school system shall be maintained and improved—no sectarian interference from any source. No division of public funds for sectarian schools. No special privileges for any class, but that such equitable laws for all. The cultivation of the home principle, the ownership of homes—homes for the homeless, land for the landless. A complete and perfect Union—no government, one flag and equal rights for all. Equality, liberty, fraternity, the climax of our hopes, the end sought to be obtained."

The system of organization is a military plan, the state organizations being known as brigades, which are divided into regiments and "companies." The greatest care is exercised in the selection of members and the obligation is very strict and the result is that only the most able and the most patriotic for treason, should be admitted to its ranks.

The order was organized a little more than a year, almost simultaneously in Indianapolis and Chicago.

A Big Building in Ruins. LIMA, Ohio, April 6.—During a terrific wind and rain storm last night, the Fall block, a two-story structure on Main street, was entirely demolished, entailing a loss of \$25,000. The people of the town were all made homeless and a large number of out-houses and oil well derricks were blown down. No fatalities are reported.

AKRON, Ohio, April 6.—A thunder and lightning storm never exceeded in this section, visited here last night, doing considerable damage to property. In DAYTON, Ohio, April 6.—A thunder and lightning storm last night killed a large number of cattle and sheep and did great damage to property. Loss not estimated.

CONCLUSION AS A FUNERAL. Reading Room, April 6.—The funeral of the two ministers, Revs. Mumma and Conrad, killed on the railroad a few days ago, the house of mourning was so crowded by the friends of deceased and people who had gathered at the house from curiosity that the floors cracked and gave way. The people gathered at the house fell in, completely panic-stricken amid the molten confusion. The floors were then braced with heavy timbers in the cellar and the services proceeded. Several people were slightly injured.

THREE PUPILS KILLED. CENTREVILLE, Mich., April 6.—A remarkably severe thunder storm passed over this place yesterday afternoon, doing much damage to property and causing the loss of three lives. James Parsons' barn in Sherman township was struck by lightning and totally destroyed. Mr. Parsons and his little child and a Mrs. Yankee being instantly killed at the same time. The storm was probably the worst St. Joseph county has experienced in years.

Buildings Ruined at Beaver Falls. BEAVER FALLS, Pa., April 6.—A wind storm amounting almost to a cyclone passed over this place last night. The new store of a residence of George Haines, not yet completed, was blown down. Several roofs were torn off; one of the Barnier iron works was blown down and the English Lutheran church considerably damaged.

Results of the Storm. ST. PAUL, Minn., April 6.—During the storm Wednesday the Catholic church at Shelderville, Minn., was struck by lightning and destroyed. It was a stone structure, built last season and cost \$25,000. John Healy, of Shelderville, while on his way home from a building near Canton Lake and fatally injured. Henry Strockley was killed.

Narrow Escape of the Family. WILKESBARRE, Pa., April 6.—Ex-Mayor Parsons' residence with nearly all its contents was burned to day. The family had a narrow escape from being suffocated, some of the children being compelled to jump from second and third story windows. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were both slightly burned. Loss \$15,000; insured.

Wind Lifts a Freight Train. DELRIE, Ind., April 6.—A terrific wind and rain storm passed over this place last night, doing much damage to property. Several houses were blown down and a freight train on the Monon line was lifted from the track. No one was injured.

Sentenced For Life. NEW YORK, April 6.—Francis W. Pittman, who murdered his daughter Rachel on August 4 of last year, and was yesterday found guilty of murder in the second degree, was today sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Approved by the President. WASHINGTON, April 6.—The president to-day approved the bill granting pensions to the widows of General Blair and Logan and the bill for the erection of a public building at Buffalo.

A Great Banker Dead. VIENNA, April 6.—Moritz Ritter Von Goldschmidt, for 87 years manager of the Rothschild banking house in Vienna, is dead.

THE CHAMELEON.

One of the peculiar animals of Florida—reptile, shall I call it? It is the chameleon, the name of which is such a puzzle to spelling classes. It is a small lizard, with a body about three inches long and tail a little longer. Its color is of a greenish yellow, and it is strikingly peculiar. It does not change color, but the change is not so marked as is generally supposed. It does not always assume the exact color of the substance it is on. When it is on a green leaf, however, it is green; on a ripe orange it assumes a brownish hue; and on a dark tree trunk it is a grayish color. But it does not turn red, or purple, when put on a substance of that color. It is a harmless little thing, and ladies sometimes make it a prisoner at wear it as an ornament.

Did you ever see cassava? Its cultivation is attracting some notice now in this state. You cut the top into short pieces and plant these, as you plant sugar cane. The edible part is the root, which is large and long. It is almost pure starch, and is prepared much as arrowroot and corn-starch are prepared. It yields immensely, and yet does not seem to exhaust the soil.

NORTHERN VISITORS. More Northern people have been in Florida the past winter than ever before, and there will be more next winter. The increasing severity of Northern winters, the partial collapsing of the California boom, and the recognized superiority of the Florida climate as a winter residence, must make our state more and more sought for by persons who want a pleasant resort during the winter months, either for health or recreation. The season opened late this year, not until February; but since it was fairly open the hotels have been taken at their utmost capacity, and in many cases applicants have been turned away. Here in Lake Helen we have had a good many Pennsylvania visitors. Our leading hotel, the Harlan, may be called a Pennsylvania house, it being kept and partly owned by Mr. Courtright, of Scranton. We have had some visitors from Lancaster county. Mr. Heise and Mr. Walker, of Columbia, visited my grove and took souvenirs back with them. Dr. Mary Wilson passed through and sent me a message, but could not stop.

I receive many letters from people who have caught the Florida fever, asking my advice about coming here to live. To such I always say, first come and see things for yourself. People often get false ideas from books and letters, even though the statements are true. Some have an idea that Florida is a golden land, where golden stores are laid out for the taking. The golden fortunes are here to be made with little labor. This is not true. Many succeed here and many fail. Here, as elsewhere, it is only labor and pluck and energy directed by good judgment that succeeds. There is no such thing as a free lunch, and no how to get them, but nowhere is it truer that we must work to win.

J. WILLIS WESTLAKE.

FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL ALUMNI. Meeting and Banquet of the Philadelphia Association at the Hotel Bellevue, Philadelphia.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Franklin and Marshall Alumni Association of Philadelphia took place Thursday evening at the Hotel Bellevue, Philadelphia.

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