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## THE COUNTY'S NEW OFFICIALS

The changes that took place on Monday.

### SEVERAL NEW APPOINTMENTS

The struggle for Commissioner's clerk and Attorney settled—Nelson Robb and Col. Reeder appointed—Dr. Dorworth county physician—The Auditors are now in Session—Sheriff Cronister Moved to the Stone Mansion Monday.

On Monday there was more or less stir about the court house. The commotion seemed to centre about the County Commissioner's office where several important plums were to be disposed of during the day. At the other offices there was a constant stream of visitors who came to pay their farewell respects to the retiring officials, or congratulate their successors.

The first Monday of January is the time set for the newly elected officials to qualify.

Recorder Morrison is the officer before whom, J. C. Harper the newly elected Recorder took his oath. The County Commissioners, Treasurer and Sheriff also appeared before him to take their respective oaths of office.

Recorder Harper has retained W. D. Dukeman as deputy, who, by the way, is an excellent official and gave the best of satisfaction under Recorder Morrison.

In the Treasurer's office, Harrison Kline is now handling the books, with the assistance of Wm. Royer, formerly of this office. We often fear lest those large volumes in that department might accidentally be closed and William be blotted out of sight. The idea of a printer suddenly coming into the sight of so much money, visions of hasty excursions to Canada often flit before us. Such things often happen—but not with printers.

In the County Commissioner's office only one familiar face is left, that of our friend Ex-Com's James B. Strohm. Owing to the present board, Messrs Thos. Fisher, Matthew Riddle, and Dan'l Heckman, being entirely new men they wisely engaged Mr. Strohm to remain in the office at least until April 1st, '97, until they become familiar with their duties. Monday forenoon there was much commotion about that office as the selection of a clerk and attorney brought out many aspirants, Harry Pontius and Thos. Mitchell, of Bellefonte; Joe Barton, of Unionville; Nelson Robb, recently of Bellefonte formerly of Nittany, and many others were after the clerkship. All kinds of schemes were employed to work the board. Professional politicians were constantly hounding. Some wanted to bet on Mitchell, others on Pontius, and occasionally Barton would turn up claiming it as a dead certainty. For Commissioner's attorney two aspirants appeared on deck—County Chairman W. E. Gray and E. R. Chambers, each anxious to serve the county as adviser for the commissioners. Both are politicians from a way-back, clever, cunning and exceedingly foxy. While these two wily bar-risters were watching each other, Col. W. F. Reeder, by some strange pull, ran away with the prize. His selection for Commissioner's attorney was a great surprise to the boys, as he was never considered as an aspirant. Since this appointment Billy Gray is not in the best of humor and Ed. Chambers seems to be carrying a big hunk of indignation about on his back. Slightly on the war path, both of them.

Following this, came another stir when Nelson Robb was selected as Commissioner's clerk. It was a surprise from the fact that Thos. J. Mitchell was long ago promised the appointment and was accordingly preparing himself for it. The "Why?" and "Where?" of Robb's appointment still remains unexplained. Harry Pontius was hopeful to the last, and died hard. Mr. Pontius was well situated for the position and would have appreciated the appointment. Mr. Nelson Robb is at present in charge of the American Express office at this place. He formerly was station master at Nittany, Pa. He is an expert stenographer, typewriter and bookkeeper, and we believe fully competent to discharge the duties of the new position.

For county Physician Dr. Dorworth, of Bellefonte, was selected. Up at the jail there was the usual bustle and commotion incident to moving. Sheriff Cronister and family came down from Port Matilda by train and during the day were busily engaged in arranging their household effects. Mr. Harry Cronister, the newly appointed deputy, seemed to have grasped the duties of the office and was attending to business with the confidence of a veteran in the profession.

County Auditor Messrs Wagner, and Messrs. Wagner, were held early Monday. The selected Harry Pontius

as clerk and C. Dale as attorney. In the afternoon they settled down to work, and during the coming four weeks will be engaged in passing upon the accounts of the various county officials.

### THE RETIRING OFFICIALS.

Recorder Morrison will likely remain in Bellefonte, and for sometime will be engaged in closing up the affairs of his office.

Sheriff Condo and family have moved their household goods into the Styztzer property across from the jail. They expect permanently to locate at Millheim, Pa., after April 1st, where Mr. Condo has purchased a residence and will likely engage in the mercantile business, in which he is well versed.

County Treasurer John Q. Miles, was as happy as a lark on Monday, and seemed to rejoice over the fact that his official career had drawn to a close. We cannot say what his future occupation will be. At this point a friend called and volunteered the information, "Miles will move back to his Bald Eagle domain, near Julian, and continue to farm whip-poor-wills."

Commissioner Geo. L. Goodhart will resume his life occupation, as a tiller of the soil, on his own fertile farm, in the heart of Penns Valley, which no doubt comes nearer to his desire than the turmoil and annoyances of official life.

Commissioner Frank Adams is looking forward to a lucrative position in New York city, in the railroad service. For the present he will remain in Bellefonte with his family.

Commissioner J. B. Strohm will remain in Bellefonte, until after April 1st, at least. After that we believe he will be open for an engagement at any lucrative position, or else may return to his farm, near Centre Hill.

Commissioners Clerk, Robert F. Hunter, will continue to make Bellefonte his home. At present he has not definitely decided as to his future occupation, as he has several positions in view.

Deputy Calvin Weaver, has returned to his former home in Aaronsburg. As to his future occupation we could not learn.

The above is a complete list of the changes made this year. To the retiring officials we know it was a parting with associations and surroundings that has an attraction dear to all. Political life, when once tasted, has a lasting fascination to most men and such was the case with those who stepped down and out last Monday.

### A Double Surprise.

In Mt. Eagle, at the home of R. C. Leathers Dec. 31, 1896, a dinner was held in honor of the bride and groom—W. R. Gardner and wife, of Howard. The guests were Mr. Chaney Hicklen and wife, of Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Miles, of Millsburg; Mr. Jackson Gardner and wife, of Howard; Mr. L. C. Bower and wife, Jas. Leathers and wife, of this place and many others. The day was enjoyed by all. After the Eastern orb had sunk its golden beams o'er the ranges of the Alleghenies and the Pittsburg artificial planet arose among the celestial satellites the famous Mt. Eagle surprised marched to the above mentioned place.

It was Mrs. R. C. Leathers's birthday. Not only was she surprised, but the guests who, where then present. She was presented with many gifts, too numerous to mention. Shortly after this episode, a gun was fired which was a signal for what followed—cow bells, tin pans, horns, whistles and every imaginable noise rent the air. Everyone knowing the meaning of the commotion gazed toward where the bride and groom had been seated. Someway, an enigma to all, they had departed. An investigation proved a horse and buggy missing from the stable. The serenaders (brownies) were informed of what had transpired, but thinking it only a bluff, the harmonious sounds still continued. To suit the occasion, Miss Jennie Fletcher hurriedly dressed as bride (who was congratulated from all sources for her unique and beautiful appearance) and Leonard Leathers as bridegroom appeared on the balustrade. The music ceased and they were the centre of attraction. The most copious and luxuriant flowers, gathered from the valley, of Bullets run, were showered upon them.

During the evening a bountiful supper was served, in which edibles of all description suffered to the utmost of the guests capacity. Solos, duets and singing of various kinds prevailed. In fact all was ecstasy from beginning to end.

### Hold a Banquet.

On last Friday evening the county officials held a sort of a farewell banquet at Achenbach's restaurant. Eighteen constituted the party and they partook of a bountiful repast. During the evening there was mirth and wit afloat and all made short speeches for the benefit of the retiring officials. It was a pleasant affair and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

## THE CONTEST FOR SHERIFF

What Has Been Done in the Matter Thus Far.

### GATHERING UP BALLOT BOXES

Cronister Files His Answer on Saturday, in Which Many Illegal Votes for Miller are Alleged—Many Irregularities in Various Districts—What Will the Result be?—No One Can Fortell.

The contest of Wm. Cronister as the duly elected sheriff of this county seems to be the absorbing topic at present. The duly sworn election officers having held the election, and certified over their signatures to the correctness of the same, and the result showing that Mr. Cronister, the democratic candidate for Sheriff having received 16 more votes than Abraham V. Miller, the republican candidate. Mr. Miller and his attorney, still think they can change the result by instituting an expensive contest.

Last Saturday was the time set for Mr. Cronister and his attorney to file their answer. This was done on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Cronister's attorneys were Newton B. Spanger, J. C. Meyer and Orvis, Bower & Orvis, who presented a lengthy petition that was read by Mr. Meyer. It denied the allegations of Miller in regard to counting votes for Cronister in Howard and other townships, that were not properly marked, and that ballots containing an (x) in the circle at the head of the Republican column and with an (x) after Cronister's name, if credited for Mr. Cronister, they were legally counted.

All the allegations made in Mr. Miller's petition were considered and denied. In every election district, where any irregularities were charged, Mr. Cronister's attorneys produced the sworn affidavits of the election officers, positively declaring that the allegations in Mr. Miller's petition were false and without foundation in each and every particular.

In addition to the above, Mr. Cronister's petition alleges many gross irregularities. That in some districts ballot boxes had been opened since the election and the contents tampered with and defaced.

That ballot boxes in other districts had been left in vacant and remote buildings with no locks on doors. That in many districts votes were cast for Mr. Miller by persons not naturalized or duly registered, or being disqualified from voting, by not complying with the election laws of this commonwealth. That in other instances outside parties were allowed to assist the computing and making out the returns. These and other irregularities were charged and covered all the districts in the county.

The petition sets forth that over four hundred illegal votes were cast, counted and returned for Mr. Miller. On these grounds it was asked that the petition of Mr. Miller be dismissed with costs to the petitioner.

A. O. Furst, Esq., then arose and in his remarks censured the Democratic press for protesting about the cost of the contest, and then made a poor excuse of an apology for his connection in the case, making great pretensions to honesty, integrity, pure and noble motives, that justice and right might prevail and such like. He evidently must feel that the public are seriously holding him in question on these essential points. He presented a petition asking that the court appoint one (finally changed to two) officers, to gather up the ballot boxes, in the districts enumerated in his former petition, also including several new districts, and turn the same over to the promotor, who shall properly secure ballots and file the same away in a sealed box, in his vault, to be constructed for that purpose. This petition was promptly granted by Judge Love, and constables Henry Montgomery and John Dunlapp, of Bellefonte, were appointed for that purpose, and were instructed to proceed at once to gather in the boxes.

Mr. Cronister's attorneys presented a like petition, to have the ballot boxes, in the districts enumerated in their own petition, also brought in, a like manner. This the Court promptly refused. His reasons for doing so were that Mr. Cronister's attorneys did not enumerate the names of the illegal voters in the several districts, they mention in their petition. Strange it is, this was not done by Mr. Miller's attorneys or even required, but was exacted from the democratic side. This is something that the ordinary lay man cannot understand, where in the fairness or justice lies. And some of the legal lights are in the same plight. It may be imprudent and undignified to question the ruling of our courts—so we will pass along.

Both sides were modified to file bills of particulars. Each will be required to furnish the names of all illegal voters, their residences, and other information

of all irregularities alleged. This must be done by Saturday, January 16th 1896.

### MADE GOOD OFFICIAL RECORDS.

On Saturday evening, January 2, 1897, the services of Geo. L. Goodhart and T. Frank Adams, democrats and James B. Strohm, republican, elected as Commissioners of Centre county closed. These men were first elected in 1890, and re-elected in 1893, each serving two full terms.

We apprehend that it will be a great while before the people of the county are served for so long a period by three men as faithful, conscientious and honest in the discharge of their duty. It was always necessary that they should be convinced that what they were about to do was right, was for the good of the people, and nothing could move them from this purpose. Whatever they did was done in the interest of the public and with the highest and purest motives, that it was for the welfare of the people of the county.

They were the immediate successors of a republican board and when the county came into their hands the treasury was empty, a debt of over five thousand dollars was left as a legacy for them to provide for. Nearly eight thousand dollars of the unseated land fund, belonging to the several townships for road, school and poor purposes, had been misused for county purposes and had to be, by them, replaced. While from seven to nine thousand dollars of taxes collected for state purposes had not been paid over, as it should have been, but was used for defraying county expenses.

All these deficiencies had to be met, and are cited for the purpose of showing the difficulties these men had to contend with, when they took upon themselves the duties of the office. All these deficiencies were met, provided for, and the finances of the county once more placed on a good, solid foundation; the credit of the county restored and steadily maintained.

The old, cumbersome wooden vault furniture was made to give place to neat and durable steel casing, containing the latest and best system, that could be had for filing and preserving the many valuable and very important papers. By this means a large amount of space was obtained in each vault which could not theretofore be utilized, and the necessity of building for the purpose of obtaining more vault room avoided for many years to come.

The record books and dockets, are by reason of this, better cared for and much more readily obtained by those who may have occasion to consult them.

The court house yard which resembled a dung hill, more than anything else, was by them surrounded with a good substantial curb and two grassy plots laid that are a pleasure to the eye, a joy to the citizens of the county, and a monument to the good judgment, enterprise, and capacity of the board who caused them to be established.

They annually contributed, on the part of the county, to the building of bridges to the various townships always of course after the bridges had been recommended as a county bridge by the grand jury, and these approved by the Court. All this shows conclusively that no intent of the public was neglected, but carefully provided for while they were meeting the deficiencies handed over to them by their predecessors.

They did more and labored harder than any board of commissioners of the county has ever had, to equalize taxation, by equalizing valuations. The assessment and levying of taxes under the laws of the commonwealth is one of the most difficult and laborious duties a county commissioner has to perform. People who know well, the fact that their property is not rated too high, complain and use their last endeavor to have it reduced. With a steady determination to do the very best they could for the whole people of the county, they withstood the assaults made upon them, and result was that the assessments made by them, during their term of office, were more nearly right than any previous assessment ever made in the county.

In prosecutions in the quarter sessions, the county now being liable as soon as sentence is passed in all cases, the scramble for more than what is due and for illegal fees is immense at each term of court. We are warranted in saying no board of commissioners ever closed more vigorously on this great drain on the public treasury than did the one which passed out of office on Saturday evening last. And if their successors shall do half so well the public will not complain.

It is not out of place to say that the printers' bills were also carefully looked after. In some counties of the state entire pages were used for the purpose of publishing the sheriff's election proclamation at an immense cost to the public. In this county about two columns suffic-

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION

How the Present Law Can be Enforced

### ADDRESS OF D. F. FORTNEY

Delivered Before the School Directors Association of Centre County, at Their Recent Meeting Dec. 24 1896—What the Law Provides—Should be Enforced.

It is at least sixty years since the State of Pennsylvania first undertook to establish a system of public education, in which all the youth of the Commonwealth were to be instructed in what we call the common branches, at the public expense. It is more than forty years since the system was reorganized and perfected under the act of May 8, 1854. From that time on, as the growth of the system demanded, and as time and experience showed there was need, various acts of assembly have been passed enlarging, strengthening and perfecting the system.

The state having assumed, as it was her right, the duty of educating the youth between certain ages, within her border, she certainly has the power to insist that when the schools she has established, are open, the youth between certain specified ages, in proper physical and mental condition, shall attend upon them and make any provision she may deem proper to compel such attendance.

Our system of common schools is as much a growth as anything within the commonwealth. When first established it met with earnest and persistent opposition, and many years passed before it was fully and freely acquiesced in, in all parts of the state. Indeed, had it not been for a few bold, faithful, brave men, wise beyond the day and generation in which they lived, the complete system of public education we now enjoy, reaching to every home within the borders of our great state, would not have been established at such an early day, and would not now be regarded if not the best, at least, among the best public school systems of the world.

For some years past there has been more or less of a demand for a law compelling attendance upon the public schools, of children within certain ages. The necessity for such a law, I apprehend, arose from two facts.

First: Population within recent years, has a tendency to center in our cities and larger towns. This overcrowds the schools of labor, wages are reduced to the scantiest living margin, and sometimes below that point. The need of whatever a child, of any age, might be able to earn for the support of the family, causes parents, especially those working in manufacturing establishments, to put their children to work at a very tender age, thus depriving them of much needed schooling, and making them mere dwarfs and machines, worth only what they can earn, instead of men and women, fit to enjoy the blessings and liberties of a great republic.

Second: The inflow of a large foreign population, reaching over a period of more than thirty years, with so little knowledge of our language, and no comprehension of our institutions and little or no disposition to acquire the one and understand the other, who put their children to work in both mine and factory as soon as they are able to do anything, where they can earn a penny or two, and aid in the keeping of a family or add to the common savings.

These facts existing and stretching over a long period, with a tendency to rapidly increase rather than decrease, caused a great increase in illiteracy within our state. In therefore became apparent, that if the state would preserve her fair fame, and improve the power and strength of her population, something must be done to meet and overcome this increase in illiteracy. That illiteracy is on the increase in our state, is made clear by the figures. In 1870 she ranked twentieth; in 1880 there were twenty-five or twenty-six states ahead of her; in 1890 she was 29th.

I am aware that many people are against a law compelling attendance upon schools, public or private, because it is supposed to interfere with the liberties of the people. There is but little, indeed, very little, in an argument of this kind. The great bulk of people, especially the native born, are intelligent, industrious and law abiding. They send their children to school voluntarily, are glad to have the opportunity. For them a compulsory attendance law, has no terrors. Their children go to school just as if such law did not exist. The class of people it reaches it will improve, at least some laws are enacted and properly so,—in the interest of children—for instance making it unlawful to employ them in factory or mine under a certain age.

It is a wise, indeed a very wise policy, then, to compel their attendance upon the public schools.

I have said this much for the purpose of possible, of making it plain that a law compelling attendance upon school was a necessity. The great objection I have to the law as given us, by the legislature of 1895, is that it is not severe enough. Why the state should prevent children under a certain age, from being employed in factory or mine, and then say that those over eight and not over thirteen years of age, shall be compelled to attend school only sixteen weeks each year, when the schools are open twenty-six weeks, I do not understand.

The child being in proper mental and physical condition, and the school within a reasonable distance, should be made attend a school, public or private, from 5 to 14, every day they are open, and unless regularly employed at honest work, the age should be extended to 16.

The law compelling attendance upon some school, either public or private, in which the common English branches are

### STABBING AFFAIR.

On Christmas evening a serious stabbing affair occurred, at Giltentown, a small village near Snow Shoe. Harry Switzer, a young man about 22 years of age was celebrating the holiday by imbibing too freely at his home. It seems that some boys became mischievous and annoyed Mr. Switzer by throwing sticks and stones at his building and one of the missiles broke several panes of glass. This angered him until he became frantic.

He ran out and followed the lads, but being dark, they easily eluded him. Going up the street a bit farther he met two men. He at once assailed Mr. Levi Fye and became ugly and threatening. Mr. Fye found it necessary to defend himself and threw the enraged man to the ground. In the scuffle, Switzer drew a knife and inflicted a severe gash across Fye's scalp, and when down gave him another stab in the back near the kidneys. It was a deep cut and has proved a serious wound for Mr. Fye who has been confined in his house since.

Constable Oscar Holt arrested the offender and brought him to the county jail the following Sunday. Switzer was since released on \$500 bail. Mr. Fye is said to be out of danger and will soon be fully recovered. Mr. Fye, we are informed, never knew Switzer and knew nothing of what had occurred at the house previously, and was an innocent victim of the engaged and intemperate man's wrath.

### Gardner—Robb.

Mr. David E. Robb, of Romola, Pa., and Miss Eva L. Gardner, of Blanchard, Pa., were united in the holy bonds of wedlock, at the home of Mr. Samuel Gardner, of Beech Creek, Pa.

As the clock was striking twelve, the parlor was filled with the melodious strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, rendered by the skillful musician, Prof. Chauncey DeLong, of Blanchard. The bridal party, accompanied by Miss Margaret Gardner and Mr. David M. Packer as bridesmaid and groomsmen presented themselves before the minister. The ceremony was performed by Rev. M. S. Blair in the presence of a few friends and relatives. The bride and groom were the recipients of the best wishes of all present and also of many things more substantial.

Dinner was served soon after the ceremony and all partook of the bountiful repast which was frequently interrupted by a burst of laughter, caused by the cracking of some joke.

The party left amid a shower of rice on the 2:30 train for a short wedding trip, after which they will spend a few days with the groom's parents at Romola, and will then return to their future home at Instanter, Elk county.

May the union, solemnized on earth, be solemnized in Heaven is the wish of their many friends.

ZIP.

### Captured Three Bear.

On Monday December 28, '96 a Nittany valley hunting party was quite successful in capturing three bear. The hunters were Sam Kline, W. Johnsonburg, John Dunkle, R. Harnish, W. Kline, Shuman Zimmerman, Lewis Robb and John Maize. The bear weighed 265, 105 and 95 pounds each, and we understand were the victims of Mr. Zimmerman, who by the way, several years ago killed four bear in five minutes. Anyone desiring a bear skin should call on him.

### A Large and Happy Family.

Olean claims the champion big family of the country, the head of which is W. A. Field. He is a happy father of thirty-four children, twenty-seven of whom live at home with papa and mamma. The father is but fifty-seven years old and his interesting brood consists of three sets of quadruplets, five sets of triplets, three sets of twins, while one, by some strange mischance, came into the world singly. Thirty-one of these children are living, eight being boys.

### At the Normal.

On last Saturday afternoon Miss Mary Twitmeier, of Pleasant Gap and Mr. Wm. Reerick, of Benner twp., took their departure over the Central R. R. of Pa., for Lock Haven to attend the Normal during the present winter term. It will be remembered that these two were furnished scholarships by this paper, which included all expenses. We know they will make good use of this advantage to attend a first class educational institution.

### Claimed His Horse.

K. D. Packer, of Howard, Centre county, the owner of the horse found on Henderson street Wednesday morning, came to this city Friday evening after the animal. The horse and cart were taken by a man who was working for Mr. Packer, and who evidently left this city on fast line passenger train Wednesday evening, as he has not since been heard from.—Lock Haven Express.