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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 10.

INFORMATION FOR THE GAZETTE

Why County Commissioners Were Assessed as Farmers

A NEST FULL OF REPUBLICANS

Who Were Assessed Same as Com. Goodhart—Mud Batteries at Work Again—A Few More Pointed Questions that Remain Unanswered—Matters that Interest Tax-payers.

Last week the Gazette turned its mud batteries on George L. Goodhart, of Potter township, one of the former members of the democratic board of county commissioners. The object was to vilify, besmirch, and belittle that gentleman in order to distract public attention from some of the notorious shortcomings of the present republican board of commissioners. To show how far Editor Harter's squirt-gun succeeded in reaching the mark, the reader's attention is briefly invited to the following points:

The charges made against Mr. Goodhart were: First, that he led a movement to demand a horizontal reduction in the assessment of real estate in Potter township, thereby hoping to cause a deficit and compel the present commissioners to raise the millage; second, that as a county commissioner he dishonestly had his occupation assessment made as a "farmer," instead of as a county "commissioner," thereby avoiding taxation on \$200 per year.

Now for the facts in the case. An examination of the assessment books, in the county commissioners office, was made by a representative of this paper. The former ex-commissioners were found to be assessed during their terms of office as follows:

Andrew Gregg, Potter twp., 75 to 80— "farmer."

H. C. Campbell, Fer. twp., 82 to 85— "farmer."

John C. Henderson, Hus. twp., 85 to 91— "farmer."

John Decker, Potter twp., 85 to 88— "farmer."

(All the above were republican officials.)

John Wolf, Miles twp., 82 to 88— "farmer."

A. J. Greist, Unionville, 82 to 88— "Merchant."

(The above were democratic officials.)

And thus on back the records show that the assessors always placed county commissioners on the rolls according to their actual life occupation, and not as commissioners, which is a side-issue, a political chance.

When Mr. Goodhart was elected he maintained his residence on his farm with his family, in Potter township, and continued at the same avocation during his term and still is a tiller of the soil in the full sense of the word. Now if Mr. Goodhart acted dishonestly, as the Gazette declares, it must also brand Messrs Gregg, Campbell, Henderson, and Decker—each one a former republican commissioner, as guilty of the same offence, and include Messrs Greist, Wolf, Feidler and a whole host of other decent, respectable citizens, now retired to private life, a set of official scamps.

In the case of Messrs Strohm, farmer, and Adams, merchant, these gentlemen upon assuming their official duties gave up their former occupations and moved to Bellefonte, during their term of office and the duties of commissioner were their only occupations, hence they could not be assessed otherwise. Mr. Goodhart always openly declared that he should not be assessed other than as a "farmer," but in the fifth year, in his absence from the office, the other members of the board ordered the assessor to change it from "farmer" to "commissioner." The next year it was "farmer" instead of "nothing" as the Gazette states. As the law allows a man to be assessed with only one occupation and Mr. Goodhart had to pay his county tax on his real and personal farm property as a "farmer," to assess him also as a "commissioner" compelled him to pay two occupation taxes. This would be contrary to law and directly contrary to all former precedents. If Mr. Goodhart should pay on two occupations every man in Centre county, of diversified interests, could be assessed on a score of occupations.

Editor Harter never gave this question any investigation or consideration. He thought he had an opportunity to vilify an ex-democratic official. The malignant tone of the article at once displays the base motive that is inspired in every word.

The census of Mr. Goodhart for attending the appeals, is likewise unfounded. The county commissioners, by public advertisement, invite all who desire to attend this meeting. Mr. Goodhart therefore had a right to appear and present his case. The increase of the county tax, by the present Republican Board, from 3 to 3½ mills, was laid before the appeals were held, so that when democrats are accused of causing the increase

in taxes, by attending the appeals, the Gazette contradicts itself. Harter must think his republican pets in the commissioners office a set of "Dough-heads" that any one can work.

Again, if some assessors did lower valuations, in certain districts, why don't this board, like the last democratic board, display enough backbone and manly courage to raise the same where it ought to be and thus equalize the assessment. Instead, they are playing the baby act, afraid of their shadows, working for a re-election. The Gazette's abuse of democrats for attending the appeals is a mighty weak defence for a set of incompetent officials. In the past month the Gazette has vilified auditors Frank Hess, and G. G. Fink; unnecessarily abused James Cornely; hurled insults at Messrs Adams and Goodhart; branded Editors Meek and Kurtz as a set of thieves; gave Robert Hunter a swipe; made an unreasonable assault on Sheriff Cronister whose office the republicans tried to steal; denied official records; branded everything, he could not refute, as a pack of "democratic lies"—all because he has been asked to explain a few points in the recent County Commissioners Statement. When asked to explain the increase of tax from 3 to 5½ mills while we have a \$15,000 surplus; why the statement left out a bill of \$447.50 from the Huntingdon Reformatory; what that item of \$146, paid to James B. Strohm is for; how much more the assessments for the past year costs than was placed in the statement—when asked these plain, simple, straightforward questions, in which the tax-payers are greatly interested, he replies by personal abuse of democrats who are not in the issue, rants, rips, tears like a mad bull in a china shop, attempting to smash and belittle everything in his way.

Indeed, it does look as though those "bricks," he claims to be carrying in his hat, were nothing else than mud; and instead of firing "hot stuff" his rambling retorts are much like the efforts of a goose shooting by moonlight.

How She Expressed Herself.

A girl who recently visited the city described her experience thusly: "Oh, I had such a perfect beautiful time! Everything was so conveted, you know. We stopped to a house where we rode to our rooms on a refrigerator, and our rooms were illustrated with election lights. There was no stove in the room, but one of those legislators in the floor, and the heat poured right up through. I did not have any appetite and could not get a thing I could realize. Honestly, when I got home I was almost an individual."

More of McKinley's Prosperity.

Renovo News: The employes of the machine shop were ordered on eight hours time yesterday afternoon until further notice. The order took effect at once and the bell was rung at 4 instead of 6 o'clock, as formerly. The reduction of two hours time was in the nature of a surprise to the employes, as there was no previous hint dropped that the order would be given. Work has been slack for some time in this department, but it is hoped that no greater reduction will be made.

Large Contract.

Hon. James Kerr and A. E. Patton, officials of the Patton coal company, received an order from the federal government for 400,000 tons of bituminous coal to be delivered at Key West, Fla., as soon as possible. Key West is the coaling station of the United States Navy nearest to Cuba. The coal will be shipped at the rate of 10,000 tons a day.

Wrong Story.

Mr. Jerry Chapman, of Marsh Creek, was in town last week and denied the story that he captured 15 wild turkeys out of season last fall and sold them, as was reported at that time. He says although wild turkeys are plenty all around him he would not be guilty of capturing them out of season.

Enterprising.

The Sunbury board of trade is raising \$10,000 to secure a brush factory for its town. Four thousand dollars of the amount has already been subscribed. Bellefonte business men should co-operate in this kind of public enterprise. Our town will go to sleep gradually if we don't get a hustle on.

Married.

At the residence of the bride's mother at Snow Shoe Intersection, by Rev. J. H. Zeigler, on March 4th, A. D. 1898, Mr. Harry V. Kellerman, of Milesburg, to Miss Florence B. Estring of Snow Shoe Intersection, Pa.

Fire at Tyrone.

On last Friday evening fire destroyed three barns at Tyrone, owned by D. G. Owens, Chas. Wooden and Mr. Stuart. All the property was insured. Several horses were burned.

BLUFFED A BLUFFER

A New Method of Collecting Taxes From Beats.

THE TAX COLLECTOR AHEAD

How James M. Lucas Got Taxes From a Young Man—Other Tax Collectors Should do the Same—Profuse Promises Became Tiresome.

Mr. James M. Lucas is the present tax collector, of Boggs township, and quite an active and alert man for his age. He had occasion to pay our sanction a visit recently and related the many trying incidents of a tax collector's life. He told one event that is worth repeating. A young man in that township had neglected to pay his taxes for several years, when approached about the matter he always made profuse promises, would soon be getting some money and then would pay off the entire amount. It was the same old story from time to time and Mr. Lucas became tired. He noticed that the young man frequently came to town and spent money for clothing and other unnecessary goods, instead of paying the taxes.

A short time ago, on a Saturday, Mr. Lucas was in town casting an eagle eye about to catch some delinquent. He espied this young man, of profuse promises and broken pledges, standing at the corner of the Brokerhoff House. Mr. Lucas bounced him at once and the young man made the same excuse: don't have any money to-day, will be paid soon, just wait a little longer, and such like. At this point patience ceased to be a virtue, and the tax collector took the young man by the arm and remarked: "I have got you as handy to jail as I ever expect to find you. Come along! A man who won't pay his taxes must go to jail," and up towards the jail they marched. As the young man got full view of the stone palace on the hill, he weakened, and then suddenly stopped and remarked: "Say, Mr. Lucas, would you put me to jail?" "Certainly, I will. Come along!" the venerable tax collector replied. The young man hesitated again saying: "Mr. Lucas, how much are my taxes anyhow?" and he was told something over three dollars. Thereupon he reached down in his pocket, produced a wad of greenbacks and unrolling the first one said: "There Mr. Lucas is the money, have you change for a ten-dollar bill?"

To say that Mr. Lucas was surprised, would not describe it. He has been so elated over his success that he has concluded to give a lot more of the slow customers the same medicine. He thinks he will be able to fill the upper tier of the jail in a short time.

Death of Mrs. Mary Mallory.

On Friday, March 4th, Mrs. Mary Mallory died at the home of her son H. B. Mallory, Altoona, Pa. The remains were brought to her former home, in Bellefonte for interment.

Her age was 69 years, 3 months, 18 days. She leaves to mourn her loss six kind, loving children namely: J. C. Mallory, A. H. Mallory and H. B. Mallory, of Altoona; Mrs. Chas. Heverly, Geo. Mallory, of Bellefonte; and R. C. Mallory, of Osceola.

Mrs. Mallory's husband preceded her to the grave a number of years ago. Very impressive, and solemn services were held over all that remained of this good woman, at the home of Mrs. Chas. Heverly on Spring street, on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Wm. Laurie of the Presbyterian church and Rev. Dr. W. A. Stephens of the Methodist church had charge of the services. A large concourse of friends attended these last sad ceremonies. Interment was made in the Union cemetery.

Church Dedications.

The new United Evangelical church, just completed at Linden Hall, will be dedicated on next Sunday, March 20th. Among those who are expected to participate in the services are Bishop Stanford, of Harrisburg; Dr. A. E. Gobbie, of New Berlin; Rev. C. H. Goodling, of Bellefonte; J. J. Lohr, of Millheim; and their pastor, W. W. Rhoades, of Centre Hall. The structure is a commodious, new frame building, conveniently arranged and a handsome house of worship.

More Quail for Hecla.

The Nittany Valley Rod and Gun club last week received 1,000 wild quail from Iowa. The quail were turned loose in the woods of the reserve at Hecla park.

Commissioner's Clerk Died.

At Clearfield Sunday, Howard Read, clerk to the county commissioners, died from the effects of an operation. He was 26 years old.

ONE YEAR OF MCKINLEY.

During the Presidential campaign, the New York World was one of Major McKinley's pronounced supporters. On Friday the following strong editorial appeared in its columns:

"One year ago March 4, Mr. McKinley was inaugurated as President. He was elected by Democratic votes in Democratic States as a supposed choice of the lesser evil.

"With every desire to be fair, and recognizing freely Mr. McKinley's admirable personal qualities—with the full purpose, furthermore, of sustaining him to the utmost in everything that he may do to protect the nation's honor and fulfill its obligations in the Spanish-Cuban matter—it must be admitted that his Administration thus far has been mediocre and unsatisfying.

"His Cabinet, to start with, is distinguished about equally for its lack of experienced statesmen and its ample representation of money. With the exception of John Sherman, who is practically superseded as Secretary of State by a country lawyer from Canton, O., there is no member who measures up to the original standard of a Cabinet officer. It is the most commercial Administration the country has ever known. It is perhaps inevitable that under such guidance the Government should seem to be reduced to a matter of "financing," and that the indemnity for blowing up a battleship should be estimated at a "round sum" in cash!

"As to the reforms which the President was elected to promote, there is little to be said. The currency question, upon which the election chiefly turned, remains exactly where it was, as unsettled as ever. The deficiency in the revenues will be over \$50,000,000 for the year, although there was a small surplus in February—a gratifying incident. There have been several very bad appointments to the office. Nothing has been done to fulfill the Republican party's pledge to have this government "actively use its influence and good offices to restore peace and give independence to the island of Cuba," though events seem to be pressing it irresistibly to the performance of that duty, and it is preparing for it with praiseworthy vigor. The Hawaiian job has failed. Public sentiment has at least saved the Administration from that disgrace."

Trains Jump the Track.

On the Linden Hall Lumber Company's road, the other day, while coming out of the mountain with cars laden with lumber, at the head of the run at the second mountain the engine jumped the track pulling the cars over the embankment. The engineer jumped some twenty feet down the bank and by hurriedly scrambling out of the way, saved his life as the engine would have tumbled on him and crushed him to death. Perry Cole is the engineer's name.

Adam Blaze, the fireman, received some slight injuries. The engine was completely wrecked.—Reporter.

A Rip in His Face.

Last week one day Skip Smith, of Centre Hall, was working about the wood shed and was standing on the ladder. The rung broke under his weight and he took a sudden drop. A protruding wire nail caught his mouth and tore a big gash in the upper and lower lips. On the upper lip it required three stitches to sew up the gash. Besides tearing his face he banged his knee and hobbled along with quite a limp for several days.—Reporter.

Died at Phillipsburg.

James McKernan, an ex-justice of the peace, of Phillipsburg, and whose first wife was Miss Annie Keller, of Lock Haven, died at his home Wednesday night of bright's disease. He was 57 years old. The surviving children of his first marriage are as follows: Mrs. L. A. Stannert, of Leadville, Col.; Annie, John and Alice at home. His present wife and one child also survive.

Sentenced to the Penitentiary.

Elmer E. Letterman was brought before Judge Mayer at Emporium last week on the charge of bigamy. It will be remembered that Letterman married Miss Bertha Fulton, an estimable young woman, of Sinemahoning, on Thanksgiving, and had a wife living at Lemont, this county. Letterman pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years in the western penitentiary.

Enlarging an Orphan's Home.

The contract for the addition to the Odd Fellows orphan's home, at Sunbury has been awarded to Simons Bros., of Sunbury at their bid of \$2,715. There will be two additions—one 16x42 and the other 35x40 feet, both two stories high. They must be completed by July 1. The capacity of the home will be fifty orphans, after these additions are erected.

OUR BORO COUNCIL

Organization of the New Council on Monday.

THE COMMITTEES APPOINTED

New Officers Sworn In—Boro Officials Who Were Retained—No New Appointments—A Report on our Financial Standing—Bonds Paid During the Year—Reports and Expenditures.

The last session of the old council was held on Monday morning and their reports and unfinished business concluded. J. W. Houser, South ward, and Oscar Wetzel, of the West ward, were sworn as councilmen; also Chas. Cook, treasurer; C. F. Hicklen, auditor; and Daniel Eberhart, overseer of the poor. Harry Keller, Esq., was elected president of the new body.

Council assembled again in the evening, when the president announced the following committees, the first named being chairmen:

FINANCE—Valentine, Gerberich and Lowery.

WATER—Gerberich, Valentine and Garrity.

FIRE AND POLICE—Sheffer, Wetzel and Houser.

STREET—Lowery, Gerberich and Valentine.

MARKET—Garrity, Sheffer.

NUISANCE—Houser, Wetzel.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT—Wetzel, Sheffer and Houser.

Two vacancies were left when a successor to Wm. Shortlidge, dec'd, is elected will fill these.

The following appointments were made:

STREET COMMISSIONER—Thos. Shaughnessy.

SUPPLY WATER WORKS—Samuel Rine.

BORO SOLICITOR—Clement Dale.

BORO SURVEYOR—J. H. Wetzel.

The present police force was continued for two weeks. Wm. Garis presented a lengthy petition asking to be put on the force again.

The report of the finance committee is given herewith:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance due treasurer Mar. 1, 1897	\$ 7,570.59
Boro orders paid	9,910.08
Water orders paid	4,234.47
Interest paid on bonds	4,236.00
Interest paid on loans	572.50
State tax	48.00
Treasurer's salary	300.00
Postage and stationery	3.00
Total	\$27,220.64

RECEIPTS:

Boro orders	\$10,000.00
H. S. Taylor, tax col. 1897	15,402.79
" " " " 1898	1,340.00
S. D. Ray	221.93
County Treasurer license	570.00
Market clerk	103.50
Street commissioner	6.40
Superintendent water works	12.00
W. E. Gray, ex-burgess	12.40
Water rents	1,067.90
Total	\$28,776.62

Bal. in hands of Treas. Mar. 7, 1898—\$ 1,556.98

SINKING FUND ACCOUNTS.

Balance in hand of treasurer March 7th, 1897	\$15,945.35
Rec'd boro order approx.	2,000.00
Interest on gas bonds	225.50
Interest on note	21.32
Loans to boro	50.00
Bonds paid	10,955.00
Total	\$18,297.17

Bal. in hands of treasurer Mar. 7, '98—\$ 5,318.32

CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS.

At the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Evangelical church, held at Hughesville, Pa., Bishop Dubbs announced the following appointments:

CENTRE DISTRICT.

A. Stapleton, P. E.

Altoona—J. A. Hollenbaugh.

Bellwood and Pine Croft—A. D. Gramley.

Bellefonte—C. H. Goodling.

Milesburg—G. W. Heiney.

Howard—J. R. Sechrist.

Nittany—H. T. Searle.

Rebersburg—W. H. Stover.

Centre Hall—W. W. Rhoades.

Spring Mills—W. M. Brown.

Millheim—J. J. Lohr.

Sagar Valley—G. F. Garret.

Millmont—D. P. Schaffer.

Buffalo—J. Shambaugh.

New Berlin—J. P. Shultz.

Penns Creek—J. H. Price.

Middleburg—J. H. Hertz.

McClure—L. Dice.

Port Trevorton—W. E. Brillhart.

Lewistown—George Joseph.

Patterson—S. E. Koontz.

New Rails.

The Bald Eagle Valley R. R. Co. are putting down new rails the whole length of the road. Passengers on the cars can notice traveling over the road just where the new track is finished as it rides much smoother than the old track.

Recovering.

Ex-Commissioner John Wolf, of Rebersburg, has almost recovered from the recent paralytic stroke he had about two months ago, but not fully.

POST OFFICE NOTES.

The appointment of D. P. Fortney, Esq., to the Bellefonte office, was made and confirmed April 11, 1894; and on the following May he took charge of the department. According to that it is drawing near for the appointment of a republican official. The list of aspirants is as follows:—Col. Al Dale, Col. George A. Bayard, Captain S. H. Williams, Editor T. H. Harter, Frank B. Stover, W. W. Montgomery, Samuel Diehl, Dr. A. W. Hafer, Harry Valentine, Harry S. Brew and others.

All of these have a pull and will be making their last pilgrimage to Washington to interview Congressman Arnold and Senator Quay and Penrose. All of them have strong claims and are entitled to the office and anyone of them would prove a good official. But it takes more than that—the successful man must have a political pull, with a big "P," to get there.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT REFUSED.

For a long time the newspaper fraternity has been annoyed with a species of communications known as "Resolutions of Respect." They are a nuisance for this reason. Whenever any person dies, the papers generally give a full account of the same, and biographical sketch. That is news and is always published, if received in time.

About a month later the secret societies, Sunday schools, Bible classes, etc., come in and demand a large amount of space for resolutions that contain no information, or news—always the same old tiresome "Whereas, God in his almighty Providence, etc." All that it amounts to is a free advertisement of the members on the committee and crowds out other interesting reading. If resolutions were printed for one half the deaths in Centre county, it would require a page each week to contain the same. We owe it to our readers to give them news. For that reason all "Resolutions of Respect" in the future will be refused. Parties who insist on having them in the paper can do so by paying 5 cents per line, or penny a word. All poetry in the same connection, will be likewise refused.

A Western Tour.

Governor and Mrs. Hastings, accompanied by their daughter, Helen, Attorney General and Mrs. McCormick, Senator J. Henry Cochran and Miss Cochran, occupying the special Pullman car, "Pickwick," left last Thursday on a western tour. The trip will combine business and pleasure and three weeks will be spent in California. The governor says he would not take this trip if he were at all apprehensive of trouble between this country and Spain, but he does not believe there will be any trouble. While away the governor will be in constant touch with the departments in Harrisburg, through his private secretary, Mr. Beiler. In case there should be trouble the governor will return at once, leaving the others of the party to finish the tour.

Not Students.

In a recent issue mention was made of the arrest of several boys at State College for stealing poultry about the country and selling it to hucksters. Many of our neighboring exchanges copied the article and drew the inference that these young men were students of Pennsylvania State College and commented on the affair in that manner. Now the fact is State College is the name of a borough of almost a thousand population and Pennsylvania State College is an educational institution and our exchanges do not know the distinction. Not one of the boys arrested were students at the college.

Lucky Find.

On Wednesday C. P. Loveland, of Lock Haven, drove to Bellefonte, and in the evening he missed his purse containing about \$40. Early this Thursday morning he arose and drove back over his route. Down near Curtins Works he found his purse lying in the road and several buggy wheels had passed over it. Nothing was missing, and it evidently lay there unnoticed for a day.

'Are You Going to Move?'

Many of our subscribers will move this spring and will want their papers changed in many cases to a new office. In that case, notify us at once and be sure to state former address as well as where you want your paper sent in the future. Remember this and you will avoid confusion and delay.

Deputies Acquitted.

The trial of Sheriff James Martin and his deputies, at Wilkesbarre was concluded on Wednesday morning by the jury returning a verdict of not guilty. An extended account of the closing scenes of this trial will be found on page 2 of this issue.

The Centre Democrat and the Cincinnati Enquirer for \$1.50 a year.