

The Centre Democrat.

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INCREASED THE TAXES

A Few Points on the Republican County Commissioners

FACTS ABOUT THE SURPLUS

They Levied More Taxes Than Necessary and Now Claim They are Good Financiers—Some of Their Statements Corrected and Others Completely Retuted.

The time has come when the people of Centre county should be thinking more or less about the manner in which the public affairs have been conducted by the present Republican Board of County Commissioners, who now are asking for a re-election. For that reason it is in order to pay some attention to their stewardship. It is well to examine into some of their expenditures and other official acts. The first thing that attracts our attention is a clipping from last week's Gazette, which contains a lengthy article setting forth upon what this board bases its strongest claim, it says:

"At the end of 1898, under a Republican board, the county had assets of \$37,633.33 and liabilities of \$14,161.15. At this time the county was \$23,472.18 to the good. In other words, the county to-day is \$9,000 better off than when the present Republican board took hold of its affairs. In addition to making this splendid showing in two years of reducing net liabilities by \$9,000, the commissioners put on the court house necessary repairs of \$4,000."

The above statement was carefully prepared at their direction for publication. In order to place the matter more carefully before the public we will go back a little further to make a few comparisons. In 1890 the last Democratic Board, Messrs Goodhart and Adams, came into the possession of that office, and they found the county in debt to the amount of \$5,267.63. This was the legacy left the people by the former republican board, Henderson and Decker, who ran the county into debt by dabbling too deeply in political methods. They reduced the taxes to 2 1/2 mills for county purposes in order to catch votes and then did not have enough money to pay the running expenses of the county. In this dilemma they resorted to the misappropriation of the road, school and poor funds, a violation of the law, to pay county orders. They tried to hoodwink the taxpayers for a time, but it did not work; it is as much a mistake to levy too little as too much.

The political dodge did not work, and the people elected a democratic board. In 1896 that board went out leaving the county with assets over liabilities of \$13,701.70, or a gain for the county of \$18,969.33 in six years, or an average gain of \$3,161.55 per year. It must be remembered that during this time the tax rate was only 3 mills. During their term they had numerous special expenditures to make that were heavy on the county funds. About \$3,000 was paid out for condemned turnpikes. About \$5,000 was spent upon the improved steel furniture in the three vaults of the court house, and the tiling and the re-arranging of the records of the same. The front yard received expenditures to the amount of about \$2,000 in the shape of grading, masonry, railing, two beautiful fountains, etc. All these were special expenditures. Large sums were also spent to improve the sanitary condition of the jail. Yet they managed to make a gain of over \$3,000 each year on a 3 mill basis.

Now we will take up the \$9,000 gain the present republican board claims to have made. In their statement they lay great stress upon the reduction of the valuations, but very carefully avoid telling the public how much more money they had at their disposal by reason of increasing the taxes 1/2 mill. The following is a statement of the amount of tax levied for county purposes, in recent years, and is copied from the various auditor's statements:

1895	\$35,946.15
1896	35,988.72
1897	35,971.45
1898 3 1/2 mills	40,615.51

From the above it can easily be seen that a 3 1/2 mill tax produces \$4,644.05 more revenue than the former year, on the regular assessment alone. Then to this must be added the 1/2 mill increase on the unsected lands whose total was \$3,000, or an increase here of about \$428 over former years. Adding these two amounts together we have an increased income of over \$5,000 on account of the increase of the millage. This board taxed the public unnecessarily to show a surplus, and on that ground ask for a re-election. The fact is that the increase of the millage last year was unwarranted, unnecessary, unjustifiable; and when they talk about increasing the county's assets they should tell the people that it was done by increasing the taxes over \$5,000. That is the simple truth of the whole matter.

In that same article from the Gazette

you will notice that \$4,000 is the amount this board claims to have paid last year on expenditures for permanent improvements to the court house. The last statement shows that only \$3,351.54 was spent for this purpose. Under "Court House Expenses" is the total \$4,215.34, but in that is included bills for steam heat, light, insurance, etc., of \$843.20, so that the permanent repairs, on which they make such great boasts of being paid last year, are nearer \$3,000 than \$4,000. Everybody heartily approves the keeping of the public property in first class condition; but when anyone looks over the enormous sums paid for painting, papering, and such like, and always to some pronounced republican politician, the flavor of a political job can easily be detected. Let us enumerate just a few that appeared: steel ceiling, \$588; painting the court room, \$395.65; papering and decorating same room, \$250; painting about the building, interior and exterior, \$493.55; steel roof, \$537. Then if we should explain how contracts, for repairs about the jail, were made to political heelers, and especially that of plastering the walls where some fellows were paid almost twice as much as others offered to do the same work for, one could easily see where the expenses of the county come in under the present board. If they had not been candidates for re-election, they no doubt could have been more economical, in many instances.

FOUR MEN KILLED.

Their Mangled Bodies Found Above Tyrone Tuesday Night.

When the engine arrived in Tyrone Tuesday night, its pilot was covered with blood. A crew of men went up the road and about six miles above that place found the mangled remains of four men. The coroner made an investigation Wednesday as to the identity of the men.

Helped Themselves.

Colonel William Foster, of State College has a farm at that place, and last week he had three barrels of cider made by his farmer. In the evening three hundred boys marched down to his barn and loaded the cider on a wagon, and took it up to the campus, broke in the heads of the barrels, and proceeded to drink it. His farmer ran down to the barn, and attempted to stop the boys, and got licked good for his trouble, while the Colonel viewed the battle from the hotel porch.

Both Feet Gone.

At Sunbury, Sunday night, 10 year old Atwood Barnhart attempted to board a freight train. He missed his hold and fell beneath the wheels. One of his feet was almost completely severed and the other was badly crushed. The unfortunate lad was carried to Sunbury, and taken to the Mary M. Packer hospital, where both legs were amputated near the knee.

New Water Plant for Lewisburg.

Work was started Friday at the new water supply for Lewisburg. It will provide pure mountain water from the mouth of the White Deer Creek, where a big storage reservoir will be built. The service will deliver 1,700,000 gallons daily, against 150,000 gallons supplied by the present standpipe system of river water.

Struck the Conductor.

Torrence E. Sage and Euling Brown, two colored men of Lock Haven, are in jail in Bellefonte. Wednesday evening, 20th, they were caught riding on a freight train at Port Matilda. Conductor Scott Cowher ordered the men off, when one of them struck the conductor in the face.

Dr. Atherton's Daughter Weds.

Mr. Albert Buckhout and Miss Harriet C. Atherton, both of State College, were married in Philadelphia, on the 21st of September. The groom is the son of Prof. W. A. Buckhout and the bride is the daughter of George W. Atherton, president of the State College.

Typhoid Fever at Boalsburg.

There are four cases of typhoid fever in Boalsburg. The afflicted ones are Jacob Weaver and two children, and Mrs. Prof. Hower. The attending physician places the cause of the disease in the water these families use, as they both use from the same well.

Saw Mill Burned.

The portable steam saw mill of W. J. Harvey, at Eddy Lick Run, a tributary of Beech Creek, Clinton county, was burned early Saturday morning. The plant was valued at \$2,000 and the loss is covered by insurance. The mill will be rebuilt at once.

EX-SPEAKER REED'S HOPE expressed in his valedictory to his constituents, that they "would always be true to the principles of liberty, self-government and the rights of man" is being interpreted by some as a slap at the administration.

DOG OWNERS ARE ANGRY

They are Opposed to Paying an Unfair Tax

AN EXORBITANT DOG TAX

To Help Pay County Orders—An Imposition on Dog Owners—A Political Scheme to Help Make a Big Showing—A Few Comparisons For Taxpayers.

We deem it appropriate to call the public's attention to the imposition being practiced upon the dog owners of this county. For some time the owners of dogs have been compelled to pay about twice as much tax on their dogs as the law clearly indicates they should. This is done for the purpose of enabling the county commissioners to collect about \$1000 more than is necessary, each year, to pay sheep claims; and the extra fund is used to pay county expenses and in this way they can keep the millage down. This is not just nor right, and in some instances it is burdensome on hunters and others. In May 1893 an act was approved for the "Taxing of Dogs and the Protection of Sheep." This act provides that all dogs shall be taxed and the sum be kept apart from other taxes of the county, and is to be used for the purpose of indemnifying any person who suffered a loss of sheep by reason of dogs destroying the same. This act further says, in Section 2:

"Commissioners in each county and councilmen of their respective cities, shall annually levy a tax upon each dog so returned and within the discretion so given to such commissioners and councilmen to such an amount as will in their judgment create a SUFFICIENT fund from which all loss or damage caused to sheep, within the respective counties, or cities, by a dog or dogs during each current year, may be paid, together with all necessary expenses incurred in the adjustment of claims as hereinafter provided."

That section very explicitly sets forth that these monies are raised for no other purpose than that of paying the loss of sheep and the county commissioners are to estimate, use their judgment, as to how much of a fund is needed each year for this purpose. They can very easily do this from the experience in former years, and it is right here, in the exercise of their judgment, that they impose an unjust tax on the owners of dogs. Section 9 of this act provides that at the end of the year whatever monies in excess of \$200 of the dog tax remains in the hands of the County Treasurer, shall be turned into the general county fund and this is the place where the abuse exists. According to the last year's statement by this means the commissioners paid claims amounting to \$1138.18, and turned \$741.82 into the county fund and left \$246.89 in the hands of the treasurer. The following statement, covering a period of four years, shows how this dog tax is being farmed for other purposes:

DOG TAX LEVIED.	PAID.	SHEEP CLAIMS PAID.
1896	\$275.00	\$178.07
1897	298.00	1972.19
1898	295.00	1283.87
1899	250.00	1138.18

Last year \$741.82 was taken from the dog tax fund and put to the general fund. The previous year it was still larger \$1243.23, or over \$2000 the last two years, or an income from the dogs to pay other bills to the amount of \$1000 per year. This shows that the owners of dogs in this county are paying twice as much dog tax as the act of assembly provides, and the county commissioners actually use one-half of the fund for other purposes. When they make a levy of \$2500 to pay \$1100 of claims, there evidently is something wrong with their judgment. No doubt if the dog owners would call the attention of the court to this abuse of the sheep law they would be restrained from laying such an excessive tax in the future. The best way to put an end to this trouble is to get a new set of Commissioners to conduct that office in a legitimate way.

The law says if there is any sum in excess of \$200 left over at the end of the year in the sheep fund, it shall be turned over to the county. It does not mean that the commissioners shall see to it that they scoop \$1,000 each year by an excessive tax. Now if the \$2000 excessive dog tax in the last two years, and the \$5,000 arising from the increase of the millage is taken from that \$9,000 republican increase you will commence to get at the real facts of how well these commissioners have been conducting that office. Any board of commissioners can increase the assets of the county by unjust and excessive taxation.

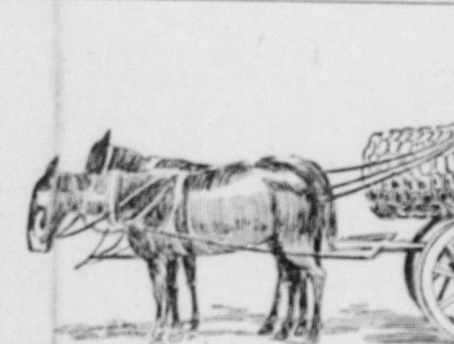
In reply to this dog tax, we expect to hear these gentlemen say that they are following exactly the same course as the former Democratic Board. But it must be remembered that this law was passed in 1893 and went into force the following year. At first it was unknown how large the sheep claims would be. Then the

first two years of the act they had no income from uncollected tax, or former years, as now and taxes come in slowly. The sheep claims, the first year, amounted to almost \$2,000, and the law seems to have the effect of inducing people to kill useless and sheepkilling curs, and the claims thus are growing smaller. These things are simply instances to show the capacity of the present board of commissioners, Fisher and Riddle, who upon assuming control of the office three years ago notified Mr. Heckman, the democratic member, that he was not expected to take any active part in the running of that department, as they were fully competent to do it themselves, and further intended to run it too, without his counsel or advice. For that reason he is not responsible for these various shortcomings, as he practically was not consulted or had a voice in them.

WILLIAM H. HASTINGS INDICTED.

Four true bills of indictment were returned by the grand jury in Philadelphia on Monday, against William Henry Hastings, three charging him with fraudulently making written instruments and one with obtaining money by false pretenses.

The alleged fraudulent instruments were papers purporting to be invoices for goods shipped by the Hastings Trust Company, of which the defendant was president, to Elliott & Brothers, Rocke, Tompsell & Co., and the Australian Drug Company, all of Australia. The invoices called for goods valued in the aggregate



METHOD OF MARKETING KANSAS CORN.

at \$5,550.75, and it is alleged that on the strength of the papers, which were bogus, Hastings obtained \$5,000 from the Third National Bank.

According to the indictments the defendant is confined at Moyamensing in default of \$15,000 bail.

James Hastings, another brother of ex-Governor Hastings, is in a critical condition in Philadelphia. He is suffering from a severe malady, which affects both legs. He is 60 years old and resided at 1709 Jefferson street, that city. He was admitted to the University hospital.

Dr. Goldsmith stated that Mr. Hastings, case was very serious "The patient is very ill," he said "I have not thoroughly examined him, but from what I have seen I believe that both legs will have to be amputated. Owing to his extreme age, considerable care will have to be exercised to save his life."

PLEADS GUILTY.

The case of William Henry Hastings was called before Judge Beitler in the criminal court, Philadelphia, Tuesday. The defendant entered pleas of guilty. The hearing of testimony in the cases against him was postponed.

SUED PAPER FOR LIBEL.

Editors in Clearfield Do Not Agree in Their Policy.

John F. Short and George E. Owens, editors of the Clearfield Republican, were arrested Saturday on the charge of libel. The information was made before Justice Connelly by M. L. McQuown. The article complained of appeared in the Republican Friday, and dealt with Senator McQuown's political and Senatorial record.

The two papers have been at odds for months. The Republican has been attacking the administration of the County Commissioners' office, and the Journal has defended those officials. The defendants say they will subpoena a number of ex-State Senators and Republican State leaders to testify in the case when it comes to trial. Both defendants gave bail for their appearance at court.

Lutheran Synod.

The Forty-sixth Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Central Pennsylvania is now in session at Bellevue, Pa. The Synod includes in its territory partly the following counties: Centre, Mifflin, Perry, Juniata, Union, Snyder and Clinton. It numbers 42 ministers, 90 congregations and nearly 10,000 communicants. It has 90 Sunday schools, 1,402 officers and teachers and 11,054 scholars. Rev. H. C. Holloway and ex-Sheriff Wm. A. Ishler are present at the convention and represent the Lutheran congregation of Bellefonte. Because of the absence of the pastor there will be no preaching services in the Lutheran church on Sunday, but on the 8th of October at the usual hours and communion on the 15th.

A WONDERFUL CORN CROP

The Sunflower State Beats the Record in Crops and Stories.

DIFFICULTIES IN HARVESTING

Immense Stalks of Corn that Must be Chopped Down—Great Trouble Experienced in Getting the Crop to Market—Remarkable Experiences in the Fields.

Kansas is a great state. The facts cited below now appear in print for the first time, not having been included in the recent government crop reports, by some strange oversight, nor have they as yet been used as a factor in the manipulation of stocks on Wall street.

The correspondent kindly forwarded a photograph of a farmer sitting astride an ear of corn—fortunately, it is the photograph that is reproduced, not the corn. The farmer has just driven into town and stopped in front of an old junk shop to give his mule a chance to blow, the animal being quite exhausted after pulling so heavy a load some three miles. To the correspondent the farmer explained that this particular ear of corn was what is known as a "nubbin;" that he had much larger corn, but couldn't load it on to his log wagon because he could only command the assistance of his two grown sons and his wife. The correspondent, in commenting upon the crop situation in Kansas, says that the



From Gen. Williamsport, Pa.

farmers are this year confronted with the most Herculean tasks of their lives, for there remain to be gathered and marketed something like half a billion cords of corn.

"Think of it," continues the correspondent, "9,000,000 acres of corn to be harvested! It seems like clearing up a forest. Who would ever dream of seeing corn 50 or 60 feet high, bearing from 15 to 20 ears on a stalk? If all the ears of corn raised in Kansas this year were to be laid down ear to ear, they would form more than 20 continuous lines around the earth. There is a great demand for axes with which to chop down the corn. Some farmers use cross-cut saws worked by steam, and others have not attempted to cut down the stalks, but have employed cowboys to pull down the ears, one by one, with lassoes. Some of the lower ears can be reached with ladders.

"People from Missouri who visit the Kansas corn fields think that they are driving through a wilderness, and are astonished and almost speechless as they pass along the road beneath the immense arches of corn, which fairly shut out the sunlight. In some instances visitors to the corn fields are obliged to chop their way out to avoid being smothered. A man, who recently came here from Massachusetts, was driven out to see the corn. He was a doubter, but when he beheld the marvelous sight he was so affected that he fell down in a fit, and was only revived after the hose had been played on him for 15 minutes.

"Kansas is a wonderful State in more ways than one. Its hens all lay double-yolked eggs and hatch chickens which are connected together, so that one chicken is always looking up toward the sky and scanning the horizon for hawks. Corncocks are used for telegraph and telephone poles, and wheat straws for fish poles. Recently a policeman had trouble with a farmer because the latter unloaded a watermelon in a street of Emporia, completely blocking the way. Kansas huckleberries are about the size of an eastern goose egg, and a Kansas strawberry furnishes a hearty meal for eight persons."

Peculiar Wreck.

A freight wreck occurred on the Beech Creek railroad, Saturday night, near Snow Shoe in which five coal cars were derailed. The cause of the wreck is peculiar. A lot of Italians were having a jollification over a keg of beer and after the contents of the keg had been drained, one of the number picked it up and threw it under the wheels of a west bound freight train which caused the cars to jump the track. No one was injured, but traffic was delayed several hours.

Gov. ROOSEVELT scolded the Ohio democrats because they are seeking office and power. Colonel Teddy should remember that warning about glass houses.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

"You are the apple of my eye." He said, and she, with daring, replied: "Do you not think it's time for you to be a pairing?"

Our Office Devil.

He calls on her each Sunday night, And freely gains admission, He, as a printer, thinks it right, When a loving brings such sweet delight, To print a Sunday edition.

Cupid wounding hearts, relentless, Calls it merry sport; Even when his case is often, Carried into court.

Well he knows that judge and jury, Lawyers all, to boot, Will acquit him, though the truth is, Cupid has no suit.

When the world is hard upon you And you have a lot to bear, Keep a heart of cheer within you As an antidote for care.

There's no tintment like laughter For to drive the blues away, And a cure for indigestion, Oftentimes, is being gay.

If we took more Nature's tonic We'd forget our fancied ills, For our souls would get more sunshine And our bodies fewer pills.

Hop districts—ball-room. A sign of unpleasantness—umbrellas, Of foreign extraction—the alien's tooth.

With flying colors—the careless house painter. An insurance risk is a chance of a lifetime.

The finest a course policeman is "one of the even's."

Does gold in the teeth increase one's face value? By good rights, Coolies out to come from Chile.

Pillows would be incomplete if nobody dealt in shams. The weather may feel raw, even when the day is done.

Maunkind often suffers because of woman unkind. The professional tattooed man makes his figures count.

A barber needn't think his pull would help him in politics. A civil engineer has no hope of being lord of all he surveys.

Sometimes the detective's train of thought is off the track. Even the strong man in the side show draws a weekly salary.

The vacant house on the end of the row is last but not least. The player who gets three or four acres has a good deal to do with.

An epidemic of the mumps would be sure to swell the population. Speaking of Northern lights, aren't negroes the Southern darks?

The leaves of the day book and ledger are often turned to account. If time is money, it is illegal for the counterfeiter to pass his time?

It doesn't retard the usefulness of a stove to put a damper upon it. The sun is not at all exclusive, although it has a set of its own.

In a boxing match both antagonists look out for the other's rights. As cool weather comes on, thermometers ought to be marked down.

There are a great many things a man ought to get before he gets married. On the lightning bug, the flash strikes more than twice in the same place.

That man knows the most who knows that he knows less the more he knows. The man who won't put up the stove himself must expect to pay the piper.

It is not always the too credulous deaf man who believes in unheard of things. "No," said the high-toned physician, "I have no patients with common people."

Business is likely to be rocky with the man who has nothing but sand to bank upon. When the average summer girl mislays her bathing suit she doesn't miss much.

If a girl uses ordinary tooth powder, her kisses must be flavored with wintergreen. The novel writer is fortunate if he can get his name up in the second or third stories.

The glove counter is a good place to get your hand in, if you don't mind being kidded. It isn't always generosity that prevents a woman from keeping anything to herself.

The poet first gets something in his head, then he employs hands and feet to get it out. "Let us take things quietly," said the burglar to his pal. "There is no use getting rattled."

Even the honest man may dodge a creditor when they suddenly meet coming around a corner. The manufacturers of brass band instruments do not always know, how to blow their own horns.

"It's true," said the dressmaker, as she sewed on the imitation silk, "that things are seldom what they seem."

They tell us the chicken crop is in danger of falling short this fall, but we don't believe it. Why, every single chicken has a crop of its own.