

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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## SHEEP FUNDS MISAPPROPRIATED

### New Way of Commissioners Accumulating Assets

### FACTS CAREFULLY COMPILED

The Present Republican Board of Commissioners is Guilty of Misappropriating Funds and Unduly Taxing the People—Matters of Interest to Taxpayers.

Last week mention was made in this paper of the exorbitant tax being placed on the dog owners in this county by the present board of county commissioners. In that article we clearly set forth how the funds, collected for paying sheep damages, had been diverted to the paying of county orders. This clearly is a violation of the intent of this act. By overtaxing the dogs, a large sum of money comes into the hands of the commissioners and in that way they have more money to handle, and they can more easily accumulate a surplus. Their tax levy last year, with the increase of the 1/2 mill on real estate, means more than \$5000 in taxes on the people than was ever paid before, and with about \$1000 more unjustly levied off of dogs, it does not require much financing to show a surplus. These republican commissioners have simply been overtaxing the people and that is one reason, and a sufficient reason, why they should not be worthy of the position.

To substantiate some of the above statements we have carefully compiled the following from the auditors' statements for various years, which is distributed freely each year, and anyone who has preserved them can see whether they are not correct.

The first matter to be taken up is the tax levied from year to year:

Year	County	State
1891	3 mills	\$3482.13
1892	"	8224.81
1893	"	8518.59
1894	"	3595.33
1895	"	3749.15
1896	"	3588.72
1897	Republican Board in Office	11191.51
1898	"	1521.46
1899	3 1/2 mills	4615.71

The tax levies of '97 and '98 were made by the present republican board, and it shows that in '98 the 1/2 mill, more, meant an increase of the levy on county and state of \$4923.95. Then to this must be added the increase likewise from unseated lands of about \$428 which makes the amount \$5351.95 more money than has been levied by any former board in recent years. At the time this was done there was a surplus of the county assets of about fifteen thousand dollars. Now if anybody can tell us what occasion there was for thus taxing the people, it is timely that it should be made. Yes, there is a surplus "Dear Taxpayer," but you well know how it was produced, and you, as well as hundreds of others, never could understand the necessity for taking these moneys from the people as was done by Messrs. Riddle and Fisher, the present republican board of commissioners, who now are asking to be re-elected.

Next we will take up the dog tax. The law states:

"Commissioners shall annually levy a tax upon each dog 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."

This act was approved May 1893, and the above clearly sets forth how much tax shall be laid and exactly for what purpose it is intended. It also states that at the end of the year any amount above \$200 shall be turned into the county fund. Now we will show by statistics from the auditors' reports how the moneys have been used:

Year	Amount levied	Damages paid	Balance
1891	\$290	\$ 88	202
1892	276	169	107
1893	286	172	114

Republican Board in Office.

Year	Amount levied	Damages paid	Balance
1897	226	123	103
1898	2570	1138	1432

During the time the former democratic board was in office they never turned a single dollar of the dog tax from the sheep fund to the county fund. The first year the republican board came into office they found a surplus in the sheep fund of \$799, but they went on and levied the same tax. Next year they "scooped" in exactly \$1243 from the dog tax and appropriated it to paying county orders. They easily saw that they were levying more than was needed, but on they went to get hold of more money with the same old tax of 75 cents on the poor dog, when it was not needed. In fact that year they had more money over than they had paid in sheep claims by \$24.79, as they paid out on sheep claims \$1233.87 and had a balance of \$1458.66. Next year they practically did the same thing, after paying all claims had a balance of \$988.71, of which they appropriated \$741.82, making in the first two years they were in office an increase of nearly

\$2000 in their assets from the dog tax, which anyone can clearly see is a violation of the intent of the sheep law and an imposition on every dog owner in the county. In the face of these facts and with almost \$3000 in outstanding dog taxes for '96 '97 and '98 they have levied the 75 cent dog tax again this year to help them pay county orders. It does not require any expert financing to accumulate a surplus if you only levy exorbitant and unjust taxes on the people. That is exactly what Messrs. Riddle and Fisher have been doing. If you approve of that kind of business you should help to elect these two gentlemen.

No doubt there will be politicians who will simply dismiss these things by a wave of the hand, saying that it is only campaign slush. To all such we say, examine the auditors' reports first and see if we are not dealing with the actual facts. If you don't have these reports handy go to any newspaper office in the county where same are usually kept. Come to this office and game will be pointed out to you cheerfully. You also can find a complete file for years at the commissioners' office. Therefore, don't dispute these statements, unless you know them to be wrong and can prove it.

### LINCOLN AND HANNA

Compared by Bryan—Says there is a Big Toboggan Slide Between the Two.

Mr. Bryan had been speaking only a short time at his home in Lincoln, Neb., when some hilarious republican in the audience set up a hurrah for McKinley. Mr. Bryan paused a moment, and then in mild and gentle tones remarked:

"Well, my friends, you know I've frequently felt like hurrahing for McKinley myself when I thought of what he used to say but has since denied. When I hear a republican in my audience hurrahing for McKinley I think he is hurrahing for the old McKinley who denounced Grover Cleveland for trying to make money the master, all things else the servant. I think he is hurrahing for the McKinley who denounced forcible annexation as criminal aggression. I think he's hurrahing for the old McKinley, and not for the new one, who is carrying on a war of conquest which he once denounced as contrary to our code of ethics."

After discussing at some length the issues of silver and trusts, Mr. Bryan took up the question of militarism.

"An imperial policy necessitates a large standing army," he said. "The republican party is in favor of both. President McKinley, two months before there was a war in the Philippines, asked congress to increase the standing army to 100,000 men. Republicans, are you in favor of it?"

"Yet your republican congress granted Mr. McKinley's request, and it was only the united efforts of the fusionists in the senate that prevented the standing army from being permanently increased to 100,000 men."

"If I were to warn the people to-day against the approach of monarchy, they would call me a demagogue—the republicans would. Yet Abraham Lincoln warned his countrymen against the approach of monarchy, and he was fighting the attempt, then in its inception to place capital even on an equal footing with labor in the structure of government. If Lincoln were alarmed then, what would be his alarm if he were here to-day and could see the difference between republicanism in the days of Lincoln and republicanism in the days of Marcus A. Hanna?"

"If you republicans want to get a good view of what has taken place in the republican party place the heroic figure of your martyred president at one end of the republican party and the present chairman of the republican national committee at the other end, and look at the toboggan slide that leads from the former to the latter."

"I repeat that to-day the republican party has reversed the doctrine of Lincoln, and that to-day, in the eyes of the republican leaders, the dollar comes first and the man afterward, if at all."

### Narrow Escape From Snake Bite.

A few days ago Mrs. Fred Kirchoff, of Romola, Centre county, while in the garden cutting off cabbage, felt something strike against her ankle. Looking down she discovered a copperhead snake trying to bite her. Her stocking was thick and the fangs of the snake did not penetrate the skin. Mrs. Kirchoff stepped back and struck the snake with a stick crushing its head to a jelly.

### Pumpkin Contest.

Pumpkin Contest will close Saturday, October 14th. All contestants must bring their pumpkins to the store before 3 o'clock on that afternoon. Montgomery & Co.

The only places in the civilized world, outside of Turkey, where you can still buy and hold slaves are the Sulu Islands of the United States of America.

## COMMISSIONER RIDDLE'S OVERDRAWN ACCOUNT

### How A Republican Commissioner has Been Using County Funds for his Convenience.

For some time there have been rumors to the effect that some of the Republican Board of Commissioners have been taking monies out of the County Treasury that did not belong to them, by drawing in advance several hundred dollars of unearned salary. This seemed doubtful at first, so much so that no attention was paid to the matter. But as the hint came from a reliable republican source, it was decided to investigate the same, with the following result:

Wednesday the editor went to the commissioner's office and looked up the records. In "Ledger F" page 394 was found the statement of the money drawn during the year of 1899, by M. F. Riddle, one of the Republican commissioners. The orders drawn cover almost a page and shows that from January 1st, 1899 up to August 14th, 1899, M. F. Riddle drew a total of \$866.00. Next we inquired for the "Minute Book" of the same office and counted over the minutes of the past year of 1899 and found that Mr. Riddle was credited with 159 days service to August 14th, 1899. The commissioners are paid \$3.50 per day, and 159 days would have entitled him to but \$556.50; or up to that date he had drawn from the County Treasury no less than \$309.50, to which he was not entitled.

If Mr. Riddle had put in every working day of the past year in that office, at \$3.50 per day, he still would have county money in his pocket to which he is not entitled. Up to the first of October he was credited with 189 days, which still leaves him in debt to the county to the amount of \$204.50. As he now is traveling over the county asking the public to re-elect him, at least, no doubt this money comes handy for campaign purposes.

By way of comparison, we turned to Daniel Heckman's account and found that up to September 18th, he had drawn but \$565, or \$300 less than the Republican member, and it shows that he has drawn only what he was entitled to have.

If Mr. Riddle's health had been impaired in August and he would have been unable to come to the office thereafter, or even if death had overtaken him, all of which is possible and probable, the county officials would have been compelled to institute proceedings against his bondsmen or his estate to recover the same. This is but another instance of the manner in which the present Republican Board of County Commissioners conduct that office. We herewith set out Mr. Riddle's account, in tabulated form:

M. F. RIDDLE'S ACCOUNT, AUG. 14, 1899:  
To total orders drawn to date..... \$866.00  
By 159 days service..... 556.50  
To Amount Overdrawn - - - \$309.50

M. F. RIDDLE'S ACCOUNT, OCT. 2, 1899:  
By 189 days services to date..... \$661.50  
To Amount Still Due Treasurer \$204.50

## A Graceful Compliment.

### What the Keystone Gazette once Said About Cyrus Brungart, who now is a Candidate.

In 1893, Cyrus Brungart, of Millheim, was a private citizen, following the business of butchering in that community. He had been a candidate for the democratic nomination for sheriff and received a handsome vote, but was not successful that time, much to the disappointment of his many friends. Mr. Brungart went home disappointed naturally, but not disgruntled. His splendid showing at that time made a favorable impression and that gave cause for the *KEYSTONE GAZETTE*, of this place, to pay the Brungart family, and Cyrus especially, our democratic nominee for sheriff, the following graceful compliment. We reproduce the article complete:

From the *Keystone Gazette*, Friday October 27th, 1893:

### A PROMINENT FAMILY

#### Whose Ancesters Were Miles Township Pioneers

#### FOUGHT WITH THE INDIANS

The Brungarts Among the Earliest Settlers of Centre County and Always Warm Advocates of Christian Manhood, as Well as the Advancement of Civilization—A Thrifty People.

In discussing the different family names of Centre county, with a prominent citizen the other day, that of the Brungarts, of Miles township, was brought up. The writer is glad to state that he is personally acquainted with nearly all of them, and knows them to be an intelligent, energetic and thrifty people. In consulting the Centre County Census Directory, of 1890, which was published at the *GAZETTE* office and a few copies of which are left, it is ascertained that there are about 70 Brungarts living in Miles township, besides those in Millheim and in other parts of the county.

They are all descendants of George Brungart, who came into Brush valley in 1802 when nearly the entire valley was a wilderness. He and his posterity cut down a large number of the timber, erected log cabins, cleared off the land and entered permanently upon the active pursuits of agriculture. As the families multiplied, additional land was secured and in turn cleared, until to-day a goodly portion of the eastern end of the valley and township is settled with Brungarts, nearly all owning their own farms and homes or both. Some of the present older generation has abandoned active farming and located in the town of Rebersburg, turning over to the sons or other members of the family the duties

of farming. As stated above they are a thrifty people and well-to-do, the latter of which was brought about by industry and economy. The present generation, however, hardly realizes the now unknown hardships which the pioneer, George Brungart, and his immediate family had to undergo in the early days of the present century. The attacks of the Indians and wolves had to be avoided both night and day.

Ex-County Superintendent Henry Meyer in his Miles township contribution to the History of Centre county says that the old saying used to be that "no man was rich unless he owned a long-barreled shot gun, a Brungart plow and a red wanus." From this it is learned that in early days the Brungarts were not only farmers but plow manufacturers as well. Public roads, churches and school houses were also named after them from time to time, showing their influence in the community and the confidence people had in them.

#### WHO LIVES THERE NOW.

Among the Brungart families who live in Brush Valley now are the following named:—Daniel, Henry, Newton, Thos., George, Jasper, Samuel, Clayton, Ira, and Jeremiah, all having Wolf's Store as their postoffice address. Those at Rebersburg are:—Henry C., Jacob, and Joseph R. At Livonia, the extreme eastern end of the valley, are Adam N. and Alfred. Cyrus has moved to Millheim and is very successfully engaged in the cattle and butchering business.

One characteristic feature about the family is that they have always been Democrats to the core, but never office seekers, although for generations contributing towards and voting for Democratic success. The writer has in mind but one Brungart who ever asked for a county office at the hands of Centre Democrats, and that was Cyrus of Millheim, who is surely both competent and entitled to that much, but has repeatedly been pushed aside.

There are other well known families in different sections of the county, a brief history of whom will be given from time to time in future issues of the *GAZETTE*. Look out for them.

## COMMISSIONERS R. R. PASSES

### Have Public Officials a Right to Accept Same?

### COMS. FISHER ACCEPTED ONE

Republicans Say it Was Secured for Reeder's Election as Coms. Attorney—The Penna. R. R. Has Large Interests That Must Pay Local Taxation—Passes Often Bribe.

Every once in a while we hear someone ask about Tom. Fisher's railroad pass. Upon the first impulse we thought the matter too trifling to give it any attention. Most anybody would be glad to have a R. R. pass, but they are as scarce as henteeth. What bearing does this have in the present campaign? What objection can there be to a County Commissioner riding on a railroad pass, if he is fortunate enough to get one? These and other similar questions have arisen in our mind in regard to this matter, and we have deemed it pertinent to tell our readers what we think are the facts in this case:

When Thomas Fisher was elected to office, three years ago, Wm. E. Gray, claimed that Mr. Fisher promised to support him for Commissioner's Attorney, and we are of the impression that Ed. Chambers and Clement Dale had similar pledges. When it came to electing the Attorney for the board, there was a deadlock for some time; and, to the surprise of all republicans, Col. Wilbur F. Reeder ran away with the appointment. The other aspirants could not understand the situation and were completely dazed. Soon thereafter it was noticed that Commissioner Fisher was riding to and fro, from Unionville to Bellefonte, on an annual Pa. R. R. pass. That to most of them was a satisfactory explanation why he forsook Gray and elected Reeder. Prominent republicans openly asserted on the streets that Fisher got the pass for securing Reeder's election and voting to increase his salary. It was also claimed that the pass was secured by the intervention of the Gov., in behalf of his friend Reeder. Tom, anyhow, got the pass and used it too, and was the first County Commissioner that ever was so fortunate. This explanation, then given out by Chambers, Billy Gray, and others, was generally accepted as the correct version, and is to this day.

The next thing that arises is as to whether a County Commissioner should accept a pass and be riding around free at the expense of the R. R. Company. Some may say, that is nobody's business. Well, let us look into that matter a little more carefully. The Penna. R. R. Company may have some special object in view for granting a pass to Mr. Fisher. All the favors granted by a R. R. Company have strings attached to them, as they are not common carriers for their health, by any means. We are informed that the Penna. R. R. company, in addition to their roadbed and stations, own no less than \$25,000 worth of real estate in this county which is assessed and taxed like other property, and the money is paid into the county fund. Is it not likely that they would like to have this property assessed as low as possible? That is perfectly natural. The county commissioners act as a board of revision and can alter, revise—increase or lower—the valuations made by the various assessors. Now, if Mr. Fisher has been accepting a pass and riding over the company's lines free for years, is there not some obligation resting upon him? Suppose the representative of the company should complain that some of their property is assessed too high, is such commissioner naturally in a position to act freely? If such a commissioner, with a R. R. pass in his pocket, should discover that certain R. R. property was assessed too low, is it likely that under these circumstances he would venture to incur the ill will of the R. R. company, and risk the loss of future favors, by increasing the valuation of R. R. property to its real amount? Not likely. That is the reason that no County Commissioner should accept such favors from railroad companies.

County Commissioners are chosen by the people to conduct public affairs in an honest, fearless, upright manner, without fear or favor, dealing justly with all, and are paid a sufficient salary for their labors. Therefore it is improper for them to accept favors of any kind, and especially of this nature, when the same has a tendency to influence their official duties.

#### Putting In Steam Power.

George D. Hess & Co., at Beech Creek, are laying the foundation for an engine and engine house at the eastern end of their flouring mill. The intention is to drive the machinery of their mill by steam power, and go in the milling business on a larger scale.

—Read the Centre Democrat, \$1 a year.

### FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Courting in the light,  
Or courting in the dark,  
'Tis the striking of a match  
That shows the vital spark.

Said he, "Be mine, or I  
Am certain I shall die"  
She answered, "Then your suit  
Must be declined."  
For if, by losing you,  
The world may lose you too,  
I have a chance to benefit  
Mankind."

I think of you in the sunshine,  
I dream night and day of you,  
When all the world is silent  
And stars shine out in the blue;  
And whether the hours be golden,  
Or whether the day be drear,  
Your love is beside me always—  
I never forget you, dear!

I see your eyes in the stars, love,  
I hear your voice in the sea,  
The spell of your tender presence  
Goes over the world with me,  
And distance cannot divide us,  
Though far away or near,  
In my heart of heart you dwell, love—  
I never forget you, dear!

The stars may forget their places,  
The day may forget to break,  
The flight of the hours may alter,  
The rose may forget to wake!  
But love that is true is forever,  
Not a day, nor a month, nor a year;  
To the end of the world I love you—  
I never forget you, dear!

—The Lady's Realm.

Used in the fall—parachutes.  
A common lot—Potter's field.  
For triple extract go to a dentist.  
For Klondike fever—the gold cure.  
Go to extremities—gloves and shoes.  
Not looking for trouble—the policeman.

The outskirts of the city all have their trains.  
The Mint wouldn't be safe, would it, without coppers? \*

Some of these fancy ceilings are being highly overdone.

The short range rifle doesn't shoot far: not by a long shot.

Even the street crier seems to take pride in his calling.

The old maid's parasol gets used to a miss understanding.

Sharps taken to court are not allowed to do the Honors.

The honest bookkeeper has no fear of the day of reckoning.

Your head is bound to whirl sometimes. Tops are made to spin.

If the farmers didn't raise corn, where could we get our meals?

The red of the toper's nose is never put on with water colors.

A mixed quartet is all right if it isn't the tune they're mixed on.

The polite man is always sure of his standing in a crowded car.

When a man is "half shot," it isn't likely to be his better half.

During a mountain trip things are likely to come to a pretty pass.

Many a house is haunted if you want to count spirits in the cellar.

The good taste of a wagon doesn't depend entirely upon its tongue.

The newspaper artist occupies the position of "the editor's drawer."

When a woman cuts a man's acquaintance she looks daggers at him.

The man who has a cloven breath is always taking something for it.

"Yes," said the paper hanger, "I put up at some of the best houses."

Is the rolling pin that rolls out the rich pie crust rolling in luxury?

Carpenters and landlords differ in the way they keep boarding houses.

A young man seeking a quiet spot to kiss a girl should avoid her mouth.

"All men are born equal," and still they keep on weighing the babies.

A playwright is often elated when his work turns out to be a perfect farce.

The conceited brunette flirt has ways that are dark and tricks that are vain.

When a woman has credit she always buys a lot of fool things she doesn't need.

An amateur photographer should not expect other people to endorse his views.

When the book agent gets caught in the rain, his canvass doesn't keep him dry.

It may be worth the trouble, but the Blarney stone surely is a hard thing to kiss.

One of the contracts actors do not seem to consider binding is the marriage contract.

The policemen would be sure of making an impression if they all clubbed together.

A bargain sale of cradles may be advertised as "Goods going at rock-bottom prices."

Children and chickens should not go to the table unless they are dressed for the occasion.

The carpenter and the auctioneer put other people's property up under the hammer.

Smelling salts may be admirable things, but they are something only to be sniffed at.

When the neighbors keep a bad cat or dog the chickens do not always come home to roost.

"What a rake you are," said the coals.

"Yes," replied the poker, "but I'm a grate convenience."

"I'm going to have a Van Dyke beard," said the blonde young man, "if it takes all winter to gain my point."