

The Centre Democrat.

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A CREDITABLE SHOWING

Centre County's Financial Statement for the past year.

CASH BALANCE IS INCREASED

Economy and Prudence was Exercised in Handling Public Funds—Comparison with the Former Statement Proves Interesting.

With this issue of the Centre Democrat we enclose a copy of the "Financial Statement" issued by the Commissioners of Centre County for the inspection of the taxpayers so that they may know how public funds have been collected and expended during the past year. This supplement is a mass of statistics, and to the average man, at first sight, it is a meaningless compilation. After giving it careful thought and study, it is readily understood, as it is made out with great accuracy and detail. It is best to take up the Treasurer's Report first, found at the top of the first column. That in fact is an index, or rather a recapitulation of the contents of the sheet. The details are fully set out as you read through it. At the end of the last column will be found the other important showing, under the head of Financial Statement, which is a review of the assets and liabilities.

This statement was issued this week and, from a brief examination, we can congratulate the present Board of County Commissioners, Messrs. Daniel Heckman, Philip Meyer and Abraham Miller for being careful, prudent and economical county officials; and this is not political effusion or sentiment, the facts are there given to prove what we say. To those of our readers who have a copy of the former statement showing the work of the last year of the Republican Board, Messrs. Riddle and Fisher, in that office, we urge them to hunt same up, to make a few comparisons and to verify what we claim. For convenience we will reprint some of the items from the last two statements, viz:

	Rep.	Dem.
Assessors Pay.....	1900	1901
Bridge accounts paid.....	4,368 45	5,031 42
Commonwealth costs.....	7 27	4,412 85
Printing.....	2,508 35	3,035 31
Cash Balance.....	1,541 50	1,912 35
Outstanding taxes.....	12,827 40	14,055 84
Notes.....	22,745 70	17,872 77
Estimated exonerations.....	5,822 10	4,552 10
Com'n on collections.....	5 00	2,000 00
Clerical hire.....	112 00	800 00
	364 14	10 00

and many other items might prove of interest for comparison.

The first and most gratifying fact is that Centre county is out of debt and that the cash balance has been increased from \$12,827 to \$14,055, and that the assets in excess of liabilities are over \$24,000. There are few counties in the state that are in such a flattering financial condition.

Now for some comparisons between the work of the present democratic and the last republican board: The first item, pay to assessors being about \$1,000 more, will at first appear unfavorable; but then it must be remembered that the present board had to make the special additional triennial assessment in 1900. On account of recent legislation, there was more work than three years ago, but the present Commissioners got through for \$5,031.42 (in 1897 cost \$2,245) \$214 less than the former board extended three years ago, for less work.

Next you will notice that bills paid for erecting bridges was almost \$4000 greater than last year. In Commonwealth costs they managed to get through \$500 less money than the former board. While the Commissioners can't regulate the proceedings before the Court of Quarter Sessions, or check criminals over the county, they are entitled to special credit for the great care they exercised in the payment of all kinds of claims. Hundreds of dollars of illegal and irregular costs were ignored by them, and that money was thereby saved. In doing this they naturally incurred the ill will of many litigants, but that did not deter them from their duty.

Someone will exclaim, how about the printing account? Yes there is a rub; but wait, and let us see. This year the printing account totals are \$1942.35, while last year it was \$1541.50. That looks as though when the democratic editors got their noses in the trough and tasted the political pap they crawled in bodily—yes it looks that way. The facts are—turn to the middle of column three, and at the end of the printing account you will find that the present board had to pay last year's printing bills to the amount of \$222.35 which makes the former year's bill really \$1763.85, and this year's printing account only \$1720.00. This year the printing account was heavier owing to a presidential election, and the tickets cost much more. In addition, they had to pay \$228 dollars for the advertisement of the unseated land sales, something the other board did not have to provide for that year. Then again new officials came into the sheriff, treasurer, register the re-

order and commissioner's offices at the beginning of the year and it was necessary to supply them with new stationery and blanks. Considering this, it will be seen that the present printing bills were very reasonable and below that of the former year. At the close of their term the old board, after defeat, got vicious—just what the word means. In order to spite some of us democratic printers they ordered several hundred dollars worth of blanks from the republican offices in this town, at frightful prices and same cannot be used. In the Commissioner's office there are yet stacks and drawers filled with this kind of stuff and it proved nearly all a dead loss. There would be occasion to go into details and explain some of this kind of work; but then there are other reasons that appeal to us to be silent, that should be respected. So much for the printing account.

In regard to the outstanding taxes over the county. On this point the present board has made a record. When the former board retired, the outstanding taxes amounted to \$22745.70, some of which ran back as far as six years. This showed negligence, bad management, poor financing. At that time there were over 31 duplicates that were over two years old, and unsettled. The situation now shows a decided improvement as there is only \$17873.77 in outstanding taxes and there are only 8 duplicates, two years old that are unsettled. In making up the former statement last year, in order to have larger assets, on the \$22000 unpaid taxes the estimate of exonerations was modestly placed at \$500. This was a smooth piece of work by the present recorder who made up that statement, having been retained as clerk for a month. Then he made the estimate for commissions on collections only \$112, or a total of \$612 liabilities on the \$22000 unpaid taxes. The present board were not acquainted with such tricks of padding assets, as they had just come into office. After a year's experience they now frankly tell the people in this statement that on \$17000 of more recent outstanding taxes the deduction should be \$1000 for exonerations, and \$800 for commissions on collections, or a total of \$1800 liabilities, where the former board made it only \$612, on a larger sum of bad accounts. In that way they swelled their assets from \$1200 to \$1500 on paper, and many did not know any better. The present board is frank in this matter and gives the facts, even if it should cut down the balance.

This board even has some respect for a dog, and can't look any cur in the face. Heretofore it was the custom of the County Commissioners to levy about twice as much tax on dogs as was needed to pay the sheep claims and then divert the sum into the county treasury to help pay county expenses. This thing was exposed by the Democrat. When Heckman and Meyer took up the dog tax they reduced it from \$1.50 and 75 to \$1. and 50 cents respectively. On account of urging the collection of all taxes this year they find themselves, after paying all legitimate sheep claims, with an excess of \$1200, which they must turn in to the county fund, and in the future the dog tax may go still lower. In this case the Commissioners simply complied with the provisions of the act of assembly, which the former board ignored.

This year the commissioners paid only \$10 for extra clerical hire. Last year's statement shows that the former board, for the same work, paid sundry persons over \$270 for copying duplicates, etc., and this year the present board paid bills of theirs amounting to \$94; so that the total of extra clerical hire, rather soft snaps farmed out to political heeleders during the campaign, amounted to over \$364.14, under a board that had been farming the office for the purpose of securing a reelection, and then got left. The present board did not have the occasion to employ any special clerical hire, as they were not playing politics.

The \$10 item was at a time when an emergency arose and an adjournment of the board occurred, owing to the death of a member.

This is sufficient to assure the people that they have a competent set of men in that office and that public interests are being faithfully cared for by the present democratic board.

Big Fire at Snow Shoe.

Tuesday afternoon T. B. Buddinger's large retail and wholesale store at Snow Shoe caught fire from a furnace in the cellar. It was extinguished before serious damage was done. That night at 11 o'clock, apparently from the same source, another conflagration broke out that consumed the building with all its contents, which included Commercial Telephone exchange, postoffice fixtures, Kelley Brothers coal office and a barber shop outfit. Mr. Buddinger's insurance was \$25000 which is small on the large stock he carried. Very little was saved.

This proposed new congressional apartment, makes Centre, Clearfield and Jefferson the 22nd district.

OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Indian Incursions in the Adjoining Counties.

CAPTURE OF BRITISH TORIES

Thrilling Adventure of Samuel Moore—Incidents in Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties—A Novel Bear Story from Mr. Houser.

(The incidents in the history of the early settlers in this chapter, relate to Huntingdon and Mifflin counties, but are of equal interest to the Centre county reader.—E.D.)

The following, from a work recently published, contains some particulars derived from a respectable citizen of Hollidaysburg, gives some interesting incidents:

They came here about the commencement of the revolutionary war, and endured to the fullest extent the privations and sufferings incident to a wilderness still inhabited or haunted by the red men. Stockade forts were built to protect the inhabitants in case of invasion. Mr. Holliday however, on one occasion had not availed himself of the fort, and was engaged in the labors of the field, when the savages appeared suddenly. The family took to flight; Mr. H. jumping on a horse with his two young children, John and James. His elder son, Pat, and daughter, Janet, were killed while running from the enemy. "Run, Janet, run!" said the old man. The cruel savage repeated his words in derision, as he sunk the deadly tomahawk into her brain.

There was another fort in Sinking valley, at the lead mine; and William Moore, finding it necessary to go there for ammunition, started very early one morning, with a boy by the name of McCartney. As he was passing a log by the side of the road, with some brush behind it, a shot from an Indian in ambush caused him to jump several feet into the air; and he started off into the bushes, in a direction opposite to that which he should have naturally taken—his brain being undoubtedly bewildered by the shot. The boy and the Indian at once jumped behind trees; but the latter peeping out from his tree, which was not large, the boy availed himself of the chance to put a bullet into his buttock, which was exposed at the other side. The Indian ran, and dropped his belt and knife; and the road was found strewn with bunches of bloody leaves, with which he had attempted to staunch the wound. But the man himself was not found, though bones were afterwards found, supposed to be his.

The boy returned and reported the occurrence, when Mr. Daniel Moore assembled a band of men to seek his brother, and if possible to drive off the savage. The poor man was found at Brush creek, nearly upright, leaning against a pile of driftwood.

The depredations and murders of the Indians became so frequent, that the few and scattered colonists were compelled to abandon the settlements, and retire below Jack's mountain, to Ferguson's valley, near Lewistown, where they remained five or six years; and then returned again to their desolated homes, and settled in Scott's valley.

Burgoon's gap was about four miles north of Blair's and through it, or rather through the Kittanning gap near it, led the old war path through the north end of Cambria county to Kittanning. It was out upon this path that a band of Tories, from the eastern parts of Huntingdon and Mifflin counties, went to escort the British and Indians from Kittanning, to cut off the defenceless settlements of the frontier. They met the fate that traitors always deserve. On arriving near Kittanning, they sent forward messengers to announce their approach and their errand; but as they had been for some time on short allowance, the whole body, on seeing the fort, were so elated at the prospect of better supplies, that they simultaneously rushed forward, and overtook their own messengers. The garrison, seeing the rapid approach of such an armed force, took them for enemies, and welcomed them with a warm discharge of bullets, which killed many of their number. The rest fled, in the utmost consternation, on the route by which they had gone out. Their provisions had been exhausted on the way out, and the poor fugitives were compelled to recross the mountains, in a most famished condition. Two of them contrived to crawl over the mountain, and arrived at an old deserted cabin in Tackahoe valley, where the inhabitants had happened to leave a small portion of corn meal and hog's fat. Forgetting everything but their hunger, they carelessly stood their rifles against the house outside, and fell tooth and nail upon the meal, seated upon the hearth inside, where they had kindled a fire to cook it. Samuel Moore and comrade happened to

be out hunting, when they approached the cabin, and espied the rifles leaning against the house. Moore crept very cautiously up, secured the rifles, and then opening the door with his rifle in his hand, called on the poor starved Tories to surrender; which of course they did. They were conducted into the fort at Hollidaysburg. While going from the cabin to the fort, the Tories could scarcely walk without being supported. One of them was disposed to be a little obstinate and impudent withal, when Moore's comrade, an immensely stout man, seized him, tied a rope round his neck, and throwing one end of the rope over the lintel of the fort-gate, swung upon it, and ran the poor fellow into the air. Moore, however, being of a cooler as well as more merciful disposition, did not approve of this summary justice, and ran immediately and cut the rope, in time to save the fellow's life.—*Hist. Col. Pa.*

Kishicoquillas Valley was named after a distinguished Shawanese Chief, who died in 1756, as appears from the following letter:—

Philadelphia, June 13, 1756.
To the Sons of Kishicoquillas, the late Shawanese Chief, deceased.

I am obliged to you for your letter by your good friend, John Shickalamy. Your father's letter and present were received by the late Governor Hamilton, who acquainted me with it; and I intend, at a time when less engaged by public business, to have sent you my acknowledgments and answer.

I heartily condole with you on the loss of your aged father, and mingle my tears with yours, which however I would now have you wipe away with the handkerchief, herewith sent.

As a testimony of love, the proprietors and this government retain for the family of Kishicoquillas, you will be pleased to accept of the present which is delivered to John Shickalamy for your use. May the Great Spirit confer on you health, and every other blessing. Continue your affection for the English, and the good people of this province, and you will always find them grateful.

I am,
Your assured friend
ROBERT H. MORRIS.
The first settlers in this valley were annoyed by the Indians, and in great danger of being killed.

SETTLERS HOGS KILL A BEAR.

A singular thing occurred about the time of the Stanfort Indian Massacre that would likely be interesting to the readers of the Centre Democrat. The white folks had settled down over in Bigvalley, built little huts to prepare a future home, cleared small fields to provide for living, all raised more or less hogs. Then came news that the Indians were committing depredations and murdering the whites, so they skipped out to places of defense, likely to Potters Fort. The hogs flocked together which made considerable of a drove, and hunted their living in the woods and fields. This man Moore—I had made reference to him in my former letter—traded from the headwaters of Spring creek, now called Houserville, with a pack horse, was returning from Lewistown. Coming along to where these settlers had vacated, he heard a hog squealing, soon heard the hogs making a great fuss, and he rode a little off his course in the direction of a field that lay in commons, to ascertain what this meant, and discovered a bear had caught a hog. Its squealing brought the rest to her relief. The bear seeing that he was getting into close quarters let his hog go, jumped upon a stump that was handy to get out of the way of the hogs. The hogs formed a ring around the stump, began to close in, and got pretty close, when a big boar made a pitch for the bear, struck his tusks in the bear's side and jerked the bear from the stump, then the rest pitched in and killed the bear and ate him up. That was the last of bruin. Now it is a common thing for bears to kill hogs, but not hogs to kill bears and eat them. This is no humbug, bear and hog story. Mr. Moore related it to my father when a boy, and my father told me.

C. B. HOUSER

Sorely Afflicted.

J. Irvin Ross, died at Lemont, on Sunday, he took ill of the grip, followed by pneumonia. Mr. Ross was a well-known citizen and business man, and many years a resident of that section; he was a grain dealer at Lemont of late years. His age was about 75 years. J. Hale Ross, son of the above merchant at Linden Hall, is quite ill of typhoid fever. A brother of his wife, Mr. Musser, died on Saturday. Willie Ross, son of J. Hale Ross, above named, died at his home, at Linden Hall, on Saturday last, aged about 16 years. He expired the same time that his grandfather did. Spinal meningitis and grip were his ills.

When a man gets tight he usually has a lot of loose change.

It's peculiar that the product of the still makes men noisy.

CONCLUSION OF COURT

Only a Few Important Cases Tried the Second Week.

COURT ADJOURNED WEDN'DY

Cases Settled or Continued—Jury was Discharged Wednesday Noon—Reported for this paper Specially by S. D. Gettig, Esq.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Lizzie Bible and Anna Bible vs. Borough of Centre Hall, appeal, plea non assumpsit. This case was originally heard by a justice of the peace and appeal taken to Court. Sometime in the summer of 1897 after the defendant borough had decided to put in its own water plant it executed a lease with the plaintiffs for all the water on plaintiffs' land, not used for their own domestic use and other water rights for ninety-nine years and to pay to the plaintiffs fifty dollars per year for the first five years and after that seventy-five dollars a year and to build a reservoir and lay some pipe for the use of the plaintiffs. This suit is brought to recover the fifty dollars rent for the year 1899 and damage for the none performance of the other stipulations the first two years rent having been paid. The defendants allege that the contract was made in order to get control of a certain spring on the north west corner of plaintiffs' farm, but it afterwards turned out that the particular water desired instead of being on the lands of the plaintiffs was on the lands of Samuel Bruss and they have to pay Mr. Bruss for this water. At the justice's the plaintiff's secured a judgment of considerably over two hundred dollars. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff's for \$149.25.

Thomas Baillieu convicted of robbing the house of Mrs. Murphy, of Huston township, was sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution, one dollar fine and imprisonment in the Western penitentiary for a period of two years and three months.

Other cases on next weeks list continued were as follows:

Rose Sternberg Lyon vs. Gustave Lyon, summoned in trespass, plea not guilty. This case was tried here at November term 1897 and carried up to the Supreme Court and sent back for another trial. Continued at the cost of the defendant.

O. Perry Jones use of Kate A. Miller vs. Jane Gowland, judgment opened, plea non assumpsit. Continued at the costs of the plaintiff.

Robert Kinkead vs. Rosa L. Pierce, summoned in assumpsit, plea non assumpsit. Continued at the cost of the defendant.

Henry Wohlfort vs. Nathan Hough and Emeline Hough, summoned in trespass, plea not guilty. Discontinued and costs paid.

Court adjourned on Thursday evening.

Court convened on Monday morning for the second week of January term of Court, with His Honor Judge Love on the Bench.

Some time was consumed in having motions and petitions, as presented by the several members of the Bar.

Hench & Dromgold vs. Nathan Hough, judgment opened, plea non assumpsit. Settled.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Moshannon Banking Company vs. William Parker and Alice Ramsdale, executrix under the last will and testament of John Ramsdale, deceased, judgment opened to John Ramsdale, plea non assumpsit. Sometime in July 1895 a judgment was entered in Centre county against the defendants in favor of the plaintiff bank for six thousand five hundred dollars on a note, dated on July 6, 1895. Sometime in the early part of 1899 Mr. Ramsdale made application to court to have this judgment opened as to him alleging that he had never signed the note and that his signature thereon was a forgery, this application was so proceeded in that the judgment was opened, as to Mr. Ramsdale and allowed to stand against Mr. Parker, who was sold out by the sheriff sometime during 1896. Some time after this judgment was opened Mr. Ramsdale died and his executrix substituted in his stead. Verdict in favor of the plaintiffs Tuesday noon for \$9002.50.

David Robb vs. J. I. Wagner, E. E. Winslow, George Hendrix, Porter Kunes, George Gardner, Warren Council and Daniel Robb, summoned in trespass, plea not guilty. This suit is brought to recover damages for taking down a fence of the plaintiffs by the supervisors of Liberty township and their employees sometime in the summer of 1890. The supervisors had been notified that the road leading from Marsh Creek to the Bald Eagle road would have to be widened between the farms of Daniel and David Robb, when the supervisors notified the parties to move their fences back so as to give the road its legal width,

Continued on page 4, column 4.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

TO MEMORIZE.

If thou knowest no good to say
Of thy brother, foe or friend,
Take thou, then, the silent way,
Lest in word thou should'st offend.

"Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits."

A bulldog bites first and barks afterward.
Some people find it easier to pay compliments than bills.

In talking some men never stop to think, while others never think to stop.
The very folks who talk themselves up are most apt to run other people down.

Women are better qualified for making tongue sandwiches than the sterner sex.
Dogs can't talk, but you always know what they mean. Some folks are different.

The fellow who fails as a barber might try his hand at running a clipping bureau.

Some men are like telescopes; you draw them out, see through them, and then shut them up.

ROTHCHILD MAXIMS.

Baron Rothchild had an alphabetical list of maxims from A to Z, which young men might observe with profit. He began with:

Attend carefully to the details of your business, ending, z:
Zealously labor for the right.

Dare to do right; fear to do wrong.
Go not into the society of the vicious.
Honesty is the best policy.

Hold integrity sacred.
Injure not another's reputation or business.

Join hands only with the virtuous.
Lie not for any consideration.
Make few acquaintances.

Observe good manners.
Pay your debts promptly.
Sacrifice money rather than principle.

Buffalo Run Dry.

This creek which drains Buffalo Run valley has been dry in some sections since last fall. The stream empties into Spring creek a half mile below Bellefonte. Jerry Kelly, who has lived on the stream for over 33 years informed us the other day that it never was in so low a stage in all that period. Many farmers living along that creek are without wells since they always depended upon the creek for their water supply. Now some go one and two miles to the mountain to water their stock and to get water for domestic use. There are natural ponds along this stream, he tells us, which always held a supply of water in previous seasons of drought from which the farmers could get water for their stock and house use, have dried up. The citizens up there certainly will have to resort to well drilling to be secure in the future, as this condition is likely to happen again, caused by the clearing off of the timber on mountains and in the valleys.

Mortgages Beware.

A case heard by Judge Kelley, of Scranton, resulted in a manner which should prove of general interest to mortgagors. The object of the suit was to take possession of property on which a mortgage had been held for thirty years. In his charge to the jury, Judge Kelley pointed out that the mortgagor had died in the meantime and that according to law the other party to contract could not give evidence. According to the law also it is presumed that a mortgage is satisfied after twenty years. Thus the plaintiff would not give evidence and for the same reason, neither could his wife. Thirty years had elapsed and the mortgage by law was satisfied ten years ago. Unless the plaintiff can find some remedy he will lose all.

Aiden Benedict's "Quo Vadis."

That the earnest handling of religious themes and the portrayal of religious characters before the footlights is not in doubtful taste is thoroughly proven by the success which has greeted Chas. W. Chase's dramatization of Henry Sienkiewicz's famous novel, "Quo Vadis." A wonderful production, reverently played, finely staged and beautifully costumed, realistic that once seen it can never be forgotten. The prayer scene by the Apostle Peter is beautiful in its simplicity. It will be presented at the Garman Opera House, on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Slaughtering Foxes.

The "Hunter Run Sporting Club" of near Howard, and of which Kline Haines is commander and has for its members Will Schenk, W. B. Haines, R. J. Mann, and John Smith, has killed nearly two dozen foxes this winter, and the good work has just begun.