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FARMERS ARE COMBINING

An Effort Will be Made to Secure \$1 Wheat

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY

Many Obstacles to be Met—A few Suggestions to Improve Present Conditions—Stop Party Prejudice and Vote for Your Best Interests

A dispatch from Indianapolis says the American Society Equity or the Farmers' Trust, has held its first meeting since its organization some months ago. The meeting was large and enthusiastic, but secret. The society now claims an organization in nearly every state and its members are reaching toward 100,000.

The Board of Directors consists of men who are crop specialists. There will be winter wheat specialists, spring wheat specialists and a special representing oats, corn, Southern fruit, Western fruit and every branch of the agricultural industry. These men will study carefully the reports of local secretaries and from them will compute what should be an equitable minimum price for each commodity. When this price is determined it will be sent to every state in the Union at exactly the same time and no member of the society will sell his grain for less than the price fixed. If the price of wheat is fixed at \$1 per bushel that will be the least that any man will take for his crop.

The organizers of the movement claim that by September they will have 1,000,000 members, who will own such an amount of grain that when held off the market it will soon reduce the available product that prices will boom. President J. A. Everett says that the withdrawal of the grain owned by the members from the channels of trade will have the same effect on the market that drought or any other great agent causing a failure of crops would have.

There is another and easier and a more certain way for the farmers to accomplish the result aimed at. In the first place the price of wheat is fixed in Liverpool and not in Chicago, and if we ceased entirely to export the chances are that the price in Chicago would not go to one dollar. There are too many farmers and they are too widely scattered to form a trust, and even if they were not they are not protected by the tariff rates, as are the manufacturers. The latter can get together, form a trust and force the prices as high as the tariff wall at any time they choose. The farmers can do no such thing. The manufacturers have thus forced up the prices that the farmer must pay for manufactured goods on an average of about 40 per cent. since the Dingley tariff bill became a law. The prices of many articles, such as barb wire, wire nails, tin plate, window glass, etc., have been forced up 100, 200 or 300 per cent. in our markets, though sold at very low prices to foreigners.

If tariff duties on trust products were taken off manufactured goods which now sell for \$1, would sell for 60 cents. The farmer could then buy as much with his bushel of wheat selling at 75 cents in Chicago as he would get if he could force the price of wheat up to \$1 while paying the present high trust prices for his goods.

It is entirely feasible for the farmers, by voting for no tariff on trust goods, to reduce the cost of what they have to buy. It is not at all feasible for them to get together long enough to artificially raise the price of wheat 30 or 40 per cent. The farmers are the backbone of protection in this country, although, as a leading republican—the late Ben Butterworth—said in 1890: "The manufacturers and the trusts get the protection and the profits of the tariff; the farmer gets the husks and the humbug." How much longer will the farmer continue to buy republican gold bricks?

The farmer should vote for his best interests. Politics is too often a life-long prejudice. His voting should be done on business principles solely. If every farmer would read intelligently, observe closely, act independently and vote conscientiously many difficulties would be solved.

Dangerous Medicine.

Electricity in its unharnessed state is said to have effected a cure for rheumatism in the case of a farmer, who has been a sufferer from this complaint for some years.

George W. Walker, a sheep buyer, took refuge in a barn near Burnt Cabins, Fulton county, during a thunder storm. A bolt of lightning destroyed the structure and killed a horse. Walker received a shock and claims that before the occurrence he could not raise his left arm to his head. He says that he now has free use of that member.

AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

Sensational developments are expected in the case of the Blythe township school directors in Schuylkill county, who are now on trial charged with receiving bribes from teachers. The Reading and Lehigh Valley Coal Companies and other corporations which are taxpayers in the mining districts have had detectives at work for several months, and a startling condition of affairs is said to have been revealed.

In one district, it is alleged, several directors have been receiving \$500 each yearly from a large corps of teachers, while in other districts directors have lived entirely on money wrung from teachers. Fergus Farquhar, attorney for the Lehigh Valley Company, will assist District Attorney Berger in the prosecution of the Blythe cases.

The same thing, on a smaller scale, has been practiced in certain localities of Centre county. When school directors are offered money to vote for a county superintendent it is natural for them to go home and use the same tactics on teachers, and it has been done. We are so informed, on reliable authority. This form of corruption should be wiped out of our county.

Nuptials at Carlisle.

At the Indian school, Carlisle, on Thursday, the 11th, Miss Elizabeth Ettinger, daughter of the late Major R. H. Forster, at one time editor of The Centre Democrat, was married, the groom being Mr. William Bigler Beitzel.

The ushers, Mr. Grishaber, of Harrisburg, and Mr. Glover, of Millinburg, led the way for the bride and groom.

The impressive ring ceremony of the Lutheran church was used.

The rooms were decorated by friends at the school, and there was an array of handsome presents, all of which were greatly admired.

The wedding couple have gone to the sea-shore for a brief time and will reside at the school. Mrs. Beitzel has been an honored member of the faculty as art teacher for a number of years.

Snake Lived on Chickens.

For some time past Mrs. R. J. Mann, who lives near Romola, has been missing quite a number of her half grown chickens, and not until last Friday evening was the thief caught. About dark the daughter, while driving the cows into the barnyard to milk them, discovered a large blacksnake lying coiled up at the bars. The alarm was given and Mr. Mann procured a lantern and proceeded to the spot. He at once killed it and when he stretched it out discovered the length to be six feet and five inches. The funniest part about it was that the snake had in its mouth one of Mrs. Mann's half grown chickens. No chickens have been missed since.—Huster.

New Bug Ruins Wheat.

A black bug, with bright golden markings upon its wings, has just appeared in York county wheat fields and is playing havoc with the crop.

The milk is sucked by the insects from the wheat kernels in the manner that bees extract honey from flowers. A bug will suck at a wheat kernel until no trace of moisture is left and the kernel is dead. Farmers are at a loss to know what means to adopt to rid their fields of the pest, and it is apprehended that the wheat crop will be ruined. Samples of the wheat attacked and specimens of the insects have been forwarded to the state and national agricultural departments.

A Record in Sheep Shearing.

D. B. Kyper, of Huntingdon, in fifteen hours had fifty-four sheep deprived of their coats by his shearing alone. He was timed in clipping one large sheep and accomplished the work in just nine minutes. Mr. Kyper had gone to Williamsburg to be present at the paper mill dedication. While there he met his former employer, Hon. J. D. Hicks, of Altoona, who informed him he had fifty-four sheep to shear on one of his farms, and he would give him \$10 for the job. Mr. Kyper asked for some old clothes and went to work, with the result stated above. Can this record be beaten?

Newton Hamilton Camp Meeting.

Newton Hamilton campmeeting will commence Thursday, August 13, 1903, and will close August 24, 1903. The services will be in charge of Rev. M. C. Piper, of Walnut-Avenue M. E. church, Altoona.

Big Contract Let.

The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, of Pittsburgh, on Wednesday got the contract to supply the electric equipment for the trolley line. Their price we believe was \$60,000.

He makes no friend who never made a foe.

PENNYPACKER'S ENDORSEMENT

Approves the \$5,000 Legislative Junketing Trip

UNDER MACHINE INFLUENCE

A Weak Old Man who "Strains on Goats and Swallows Camels"—Campaign Predictions Coming True—A Tool of the Politicians

The last legislature passed a bill authorizing James Russ, a Harrisburg hotel keeper, to sue the commonwealth for a claim amounting to about \$5,000 for supplies, etc., furnished to members of the legislature of 1897 on the occasion of a junketing trip to New York to attend the dedication of the Grant monument. Although a similar bill was vetoed by Governor Hastings and Stone our present governor has seen fit to give his approval to a measure that two other governors condemned.

Mr. Russ has filed an itemized account of his bill and it is certainly a curiosity in its way, but fairly illustrates the manner in which some of the legislators of this commonwealth become parties to outrageous schemes of plunder. Here is the bill as filed in the court of Dauphin county:

To table supplies.....	\$1,778 36
To wines and liquors.....	3,026 60
To supper at Dooner's for committee.....	61 00
To J. M. Bichel, cigars.....	450 00
To hire of china and breakage.....	167 53
To employes' services.....	200 00
To car fare.....	224 40
To purchase of stoves.....	70 00
To freight charges.....	8 27
To James Russ, incidental expenses.....	175 00
Total.....	\$5,911 16

Or by liquors returned..... \$ 157 00
By sale of stoves..... 32 00
Total..... \$5,911 16

The Wilkesbarre record is not alone in its opinion of this infamous transaction, when it says:

"It certainly is remarkable that Samuel W. Pennypacker, governor of Pennsylvania, was willing to become a party to assist Russ in collecting such a claim. When the same kind of a bill was presented by a former legislature to Governor Hastings he denounced it as an infamous outrage and vetoed it. When the same bill came before Governor Stone in 1901 he returned it with his veto with the following remarks:

"Inasmuch as this and similar other items have already been passed upon by a previous legislature and executive, and as it has always been the policy of the state to discourage the bringing of suits against the commonwealth by individuals, I do not feel satisfied in establishing a precedent which may lead to much unjustifiable litigation."

"The incomprehensible Governor Pennypacker could see no such objections and opened the door for Russ to sue the state for a claim contracted without the slightest justification in morals or decency. Verily for straining at gnats and swallowing camels Governor Pennypacker has few equals and no superiors."

After Sites for a Fish Hatchery.

Fish commissioner William E. Meehan will begin the examination of sites for a root hatchery in Central Pennsylvania this week. Residents of several counties have offered grounds and water rights without cost to the state.

The hatchery is to be established under a recent act of the legislature and Commissioner Meehan declares that a suitable site must contain springs with a flow of not less than 500 gallons a minute and that the land must be near a rail road station.

An effort will be made to secure the hatchery at this place. There are a number of desirable locations along Logan Branch, also along Spring Creek, which will be offered for this purpose. The fish commissioner is expected here today and will be driven around by Col. W. F. Reynolds and others.

ELEVATIONS IN THE STATE.

The elevation, in feet, above the sea level, of the points named below, will be of interest to readers of The Centre Democrat:

Altoona 1,181, Bellefonte 826, Coatesville 380, Easton 325, Emporium 1,050, Erie 1,400, Grampian 1,570, Harrisburg 351, Huntingdon 650, Irwin 884, Johnstown 1,184, Lebanon 458, Lewisburg 450, Lock Haven 560, Mauch Chunk 550, Philadelphia 117, Pittsburg 842, Reading 280, Renovo 673, St. Marys 1,740, Scranton 805, Selins Grove 455, Somerset 2,250, South Bethlehem 339, South Raton 660, State College 1,191, Uniontown 999, Warren 1,137, Wellsboro 1,327, West Chester 455, Wilkesbarre 575, Williamsport 530, York 385.

Judge and Mrs. George Orady, of Huntingdon, accompanied by their son, Philip, on Saturday sailed from New York for Europe to spend the summer.

Speaking terms are to be found on a card in the telephone booth.

LIGHTNING FREAKS.

Wm. Lyon's house at Lyontown, Spring twp., was struck by lightning Wednesday afternoon.

Wm. Walker's house in Milesburg was struck by lightning during the storm Wednesday of last week but not much damage was done.

During the progress of the heavy storm Tuesday afternoon 9th, the barn of Benjamin Phillips in Northwood, near Tyrone, was struck by lightning and burned down to the walls.

The brick house on the McCormick farm State College was struck by lightning during the storm on Wednesday afternoon, and tore off the plastering, wrecked a chimney and upset a stove.

A cow belonging to D. C. Kurfman, while standing in the middle of a field adjoining East Tyrone was struck by lightning during the storm Tuesday afternoon of last week and instantly killed.

Last week during the severe thunder gust that passed over this valley a flash of lightning killed three cows for Sam'l Clevenstine, near Zion, and injured another. The cattle were out in the pasture field at the time.

Andy Lytle and mail carrier Weaver had a mishap; lightning frightened Mr. Lytle's horse which ran away. Mr. Weaver's horse during the same storm became unmanageable, broke the shafts, demolished his new harness and scattered the mail in Ferguson.

Last week during a thunder storm, at the Branch, lightning frightened two of William Everhart's teams which were plowing. Ed. Mulberger's team ran away and the one following ran over him. He was caught by the plow and dragged quite a distance. Fortunately he escaped with only a few bruises; teams broke up plows, whiffle trees and gears.

During the progress of an electric storm noon, on 10, a bolt of lightning struck a tree on the pasture lands of J. Mattern and sons, adjoining Gaysport, under which a herd of seven cattle had taken shelter. The deadly fluid killed every one of the animals. They were short horn Darhams of the finest stock. There was not a visible sign of injury to their bodies. One cow was the mother of a calf two days old. The herd was valued at \$400.

During a heavy thunder storm in Sugar valley on 10, two houses were struck by lightning. The houses struck and slightly damaged were those of Jonathan Schroyer, of Carroll and Fred Womeldorf, two miles east of Loganton. At the latter place Mrs. Womeldorf was in the cellar when the house was struck. When Mr. Womeldorf went down he found her lying in an unconscious condition having been severely stunned by the shock. She was carried out of the cellar and soon recovered.

Tuesday's storm of last week was especially severe at Warriorsmark. A streak of lightning darted down and hit the residence of J. H. Mattern and family, tearing a window shutter off in its course, but fortunately doing no other damage. The homes of Clayton Fetterhoff and Foreman Lucas were also struck, but no serious damage resulted. At the store of M. B. Lever, John Conrad and A. B. Henderson received a shock that rendered them speechless and even helpless for a moment.

During the storm Wednesday, 10, a stroke of lightning killed five cows belonging to Corl Bloom, who lives on the Miles Gray farm near Scotia. They were standing together clear away from any trees. They were insured in the Penns valley company. The cows that were killed stood close to a wire fence, and it is quite likely that a bolt from the clouds struck the wires, and did the work of killing the cows. A sixth cow standing a few yards from those that were killed, escaped harm.

Fire Insurance Board Meets.

The regular quarterly meeting of directors of the Farmers Mut. Fire Ins. Co., met in the office of Col. Reynolds, on Monday. A full board was in attendance, and much business was transacted. Applications for risks to amount of \$167,480 were passed; the cash premiums footed up \$712.77. The loss of five cows by Benj. C. Corl, a few miles back of State College, killed by lightning, last week, was ordered to be paid. No other losses were to be settled for. J. H. Beck, of Hubersburg, was, on application, appointed an agent for Walker township, to take applications for insurance.

The Pennsylvania Fire Brick company, at Beech Creek, by the continued increase of orders has made it absolutely necessary to increase the size of the plant. It has been fully determined to do this at once and work on the extension will be pushed rapidly during the summer so as to double the capacity.

One way to make horses fast is to cut off the food supply.

IMPORTANT TO SOLDIERS

Three Monuments to be Dedicated This Fall

TRANSPORTATION FURNISHED

To All Members Who are Entitled—Information can be had From any G. A. R. Post—Interesting Trip to Southern Battlefields

Adjutant General Thomas J. Stewart sent to the Grand Army posts of the State circulars announcing the preliminary arrangements for the transportation of the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers survivors to the dedication of the monument to the regiment at Shiloh next October, also the surviving veterans who were confined in the Confederate prison at Andersonville, to attend the dedication of the Pennsylvania memorial in the National cemetery at Andersonville, next October, and the survivors of the One Hundred and Ninth and the Seventy-third Volunteers to attend the dedication of the monuments erected to these organizations on the battlefields of Wauhatchie and Missionary Ridge next November.

Under acts of Assembly passed by the last Legislature free transportation will be furnished to all veterans entitled to it from their place of residence by the nearest route to the different points. The transportation issued will be good for one month, entitling the holders to stopovers within that time. The Adjutant General has issued these circulars, which contain extracts from the acts of Assembly in each case so that there may be plenty of time for the veterans to file their claims with him.

Reptiles Plenty in Sugar Valley.

W. T. Moyer decapitated a large snake with his shotgun.

Samuel Goodman killed a monster snake carrying 14 rattles on Harter's lumber job on Friday.

Samuel Shreckengast is the hero of Brush valley. Friday last on Douly's bark job he performed the difficult and dangerous feat of killing a large black snake fifty feet up a hemlock tree, amid loud applause by fellow workmen.

Friday last a five foot black snake crawled out of his den and took possession of camp 6, on Kulp's lumber job, holding the fort quite a while, much to the fear and trembling of Mrs. Daniel Mark and her assistant cooks. His snakeship entered the kitchen unnoticed through the rear door while the women were doing something outside. The boldness of the satanic intruder frightened the ladies half to death. Blacksmith "Billy" being apprised of their dilemma came to their assistance. Armed with clubs they together made a San Juan raid upon the enemy, chasing it around the stove, under the sink, into the lobby and then into the pantry, where they finally succeeded in killing it.—Democrat.

Martin—Richards.

A pretty home wedding was solemnized on Wednesday, June 10, at 6 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Martin, of Martha Furnace. It was the occasion of the marriage of their second daughter, Elizabeth C., to Wm. H. Richards, of Julian. The house was prettily trimmed and festooned with ferns, laurel and roses.

The bride was appropriately dressed in a blue traveling suit while the groom wore the conventional suit. Joseph Williams, of Martha, was best man and Miss Rhoda Dillen, of Julian, was bridesmaid. Pastor A. C. Lathrop, of the Baptist church, officiated. After the ceremony an elegant wedding supper was enjoyed by the guests. A number of excellent presents were received.

In the evening the bride and groom departed for Julian, where the groom's parents gave them a reception.

Dedication of Spring Mills Church.

The Spring Mills Lutheran church will be dedicated Sunday, June 21. Services are being held this week.

Rev. C. B. Harman, of Rebersburg, preached Monday evening. On Tuesday evening W. M. Rearick, of West Milton; Rev. B. R. M. Sheeder, of Aaronsburg, Wednesday evening; Rev. J. I. Stonecypher, of Boalsburg, Thursday evening; Rev. C. T. Aikens, of Pine Grove Mills, to-morrow, Friday evening; Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D., Shamokin, Saturday evening; Sunday, to a. m.—Dedictory sermon. Rev. I. H. McGann, Lewisburg. Dedication by the pastor, Rev. J. M. Rearick. Sunday, 2 p. m.—Sabbath school. Addresses by visiting pastors. The public is invited.

The dew of repentance are often kept from the sinner by the rubber coat of pride.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

THE STUCK UP GIRL.

She was dainty and petite,
And her costume trim and neat—
And the town went ogle-eyed
When she rambled down the street;
And this item was described;
Of support she had no lack,
For she'd stuck
Twenty pins
In

The middle of her back!

Where her shirtwaist met her skirt,
Marking out a wasp like girth,
Not a seam or fold was wrong,
And the whole was sweetly pert,
As she lightly tripped along.
Admiration on her track,
And a store
Full of pins
In

The middle of her back!

Oh, the joy with which we sent
Up our card, when dusk had lent
To romancing such a charm,
All on winning her intent!
And we slyly placed our arm
In position, but, alack!
We were caught
On the pins
In

The middle of her back!

Never more will we essay
To allow our arm to stray,
When a small inviting waist
With temptation blocks the way!
Lightsome romances is our taste—
Not waists gathered in the slack
With a half
Ton of pins
In

The middle of the back!

—Baltimore News.

THE GIRL TO MARRY.

Some marry just for beauty,
Some coldly wed for wealth,
Some make a requisition
For a girl in perfect health,
Some men prefer a woman
Wise enough to write a book,
But the shrewd man, when he marries,
Picks a girl out who can cook.

For riches sometimes vanish,
And beauty quickly fades,
And frequently men tire
Of these very learned maids,
So husbands often wriggle
On the matrimonial hook
But a man is always happy
If his wife knows how to cook.
—Somerville Journal.

There was a man who had a clock,
His name was Mathew Mears;
He wound it every night and morn
For more than forty years;
And when at last he found it out
An eight-day clock to be,
A madder man than Mathew Mears
You never would wish to see.

TELL HIM SO.

If you have a word of cheer
That may light the pathway dread,
Of a brother pilgrim here,
Let him know.
Show him you appreciate
What he does; and do not wait,
Till the heavy hand of Fate
Lays him low.

If your heart contains a thought
That will brighten make his lot,
Then in mercy, hide it not:
Tell him so.
Wait not till your friend is dead
Ere your compliments are said:
For the spirit that has fled,
If it know,

Does not need to speed it on
Our poor praise; when it has gone
Love's eternal, golden dawn
Is aglow.
But unto our brother here
That poor praise is very dear;
If you've any word of cheer
Tell him so.
—Good Health

Some people praise themselves by
blaming others.
One secret of success is to keep all
your own secrets.

The ice man should be brought to see
the error of his weights.
The chronic kicker isn't even satisfied
with his lot in the cemetery.

Agitation has been started in Ken-
tucky for gunless murder trials.
The less a man knows the easier it is
to convince him that he knows it all.

A man should be getting on well in
life when he is getting well on in life.
The average politician isn't a gram-
marian; he can't even decline an office.

Over in Port Allegheny there is said
to be a farmer so plous that he gave
away a barrel of cider because the
"danged stuff" would "work" on Sun-
day.

Composition on a Pair of Pants:—
Pants are made for men, and not for
women. Women are made for men and
not for pants. When a man pants for a
woman, and a woman pants for a man,
they are a pair of pants. Such pants
don't last. Pants are like molasses—they
are thinner in hot weather and
thicker in cold. Men are often mistaken
in pants; such mistakes are breeches of
promise. There has been much discus-
sion whether pants is singular or plural.
Seems to us when men wear pants it is
plural, and when they don't wear any
pants it is singular. Men go on a tear
in their pants, and it is all right; when
the pants go on a tear it is all wrong. If
you want to make pants last, make the
coat first.