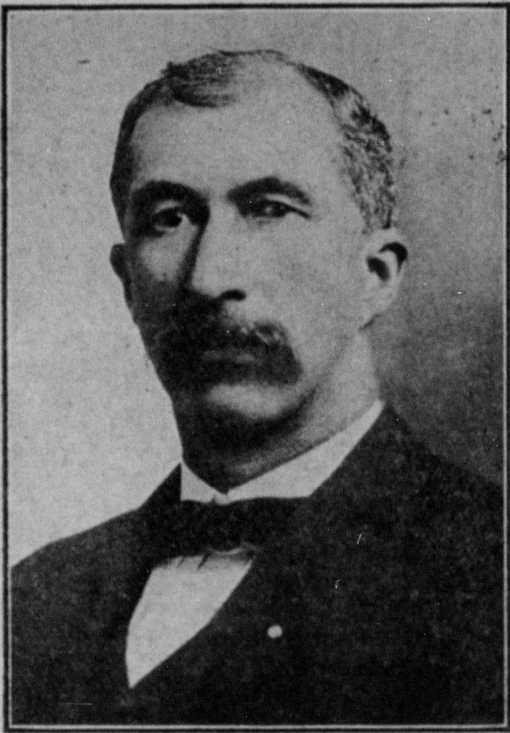


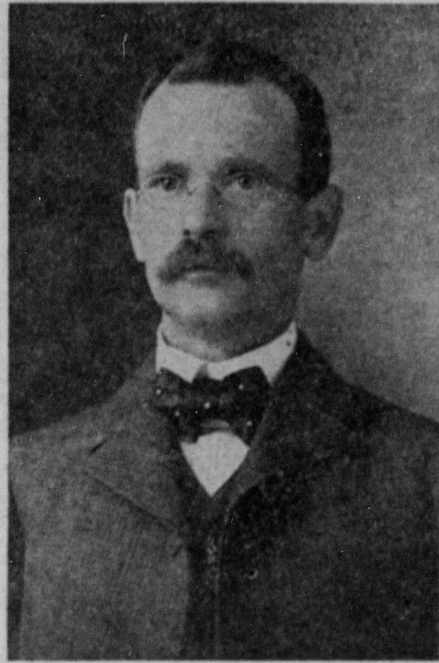
Circulation Over 4,300—Largest in Centre County.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1905.

Vol. 27. No. 41.



For Sheriff, ELLIS S. SHAFFER.



For Recorder, JOHN C. ROWE.

ELLIS S. SHAFFER.

The above named is the democratic nominee for Sheriff of Centre county, and, unless all predictions fail, will be duly elected to fill that important office in November. He comes from one of the best families in Centre county—pure Pennsylvania German stock—noted for their industry, thrift and sterling worth; and as such he will fill that high office to the full satisfaction of the voters who approve of his candidacy, and the general public who may have occasion to transact business in that department. For down in Miles township is where they grow good, strong, stalwart men, of which this gentleman is a fitting type.

Among the pioneers of this county were the Shaffers, and his grandfather, Judge John Shaffer, was among the first to clear the forests and till the soil in the fertile section known as Brushvalley which is long famed as the finest agricultural district in this part of the state.

Ellis S. Shaffer is a son of Adam Shaffer, Jr., and was born on his father's farm, the Shaffer homestead, near Madisonburg, in 1856. His parents and grandparents were farmers and the greater portion of his life was spent on the farm, as he remained with his parents until 1884, and for seven years thereafter conducted the farm himself. 1889 he moved to Madisonburg and while there devoted most of his attention to farming. For several years he was engaged in reconstructing the pike leading across to Millheim and controlled the stage and mail route between those points. For over a year he was employed by Simon R. King, whose health was failing, as manager of the Musser House, Millheim, after which he returned to Madisonburg and since then has been employed in farming and other pursuits.

He is known in his community as a kind and generous hearted man, always ready to extend the helping hand to those in need. He further is one possessed of sound judgment and discretion; and in his department, above all, is a true gentleman.

AFTER BRIDGE AGENTS.

The following dispatch in the daily papers shows that out in Ohio they are after the bridge agents, who are skinning the public, which at this time should prove of interest to the public:

Columbus, O., Oct. 11.—R. W. Huston, W. P. Anawalt and A. C. Lowe today were ordered committed to jail by Notary Public George W. Bope for contempt in refusing to answer questions of attorneys for the plaintiffs in the bridge combine investigation.

Yesterday the witnesses refused to admit or deny that they were or had been agents for bridge companies in Ohio on the ground that answering these questions would tend to incriminate them. They persisted in their refusal and were ordered to jail.

Former Attorney General F. S. Monnett, who is pushing the investigation, this evening wrote to Attorney General Wade H. Ellis, demanding that he bring suit against all bridge companies party to the pool agreement, to oust them from the State for violation of the Valentine anti-trust law. The prosecuting attorneys of all counties will also be urged to bring suit to recover excess moneys paid for bridge construction.

Here in Centre county some people say "what does it matter if our county commissioners go on extensive trips to Atlantic City, St. Louis and Washington, D. C., with these bridge men and accept costly presents from them?"

Yes, what does it matter? It don't matter, if the taxpayers are satisfied to foot the bills in the prices paid for bridges.

Rural Route No. 2 at Howard is booked to be put in operation this week.

JOHN C. ROWE.

For the past three years the above gentleman has filled the position of Recorder of this county and therefore is known to most of our readers. He was elected to that office by a nice vote in 1902, on the democratic ticket and during the present term he has been faithful to every duty in that position. He is known as an obliging and agreeable official. The work in that department has always received his best care and attention, and we have the first complaint to hear from anyone in that direction.

Personally, John Rowe is above all a perfect gentleman, and one who has made many friends since he moved here from Philipsburg. As it is customary to reward competent and faithful officials in that office with a second term, he was unanimously accorded a re-nomination and we believe his re-election is assured. Mr. Rowe was born at Pittsburg in 1860, and at the early age of nine years found it necessary to go to work and secured employment in a glass factory. After that he learned tailoring, attending school at night. For a number of years he conducted a tailoring establishment in Philipsburg, until elected Recorder, when with his family he removed to Belleville.

He is worthy of your support and will appreciate your vote.

PASS IT AROUND.

But a few years ago Harrison Kline was elected Treasurer of this county and enjoyed a good term of three years. He was a good official, and no one ever found any fault with his record. But when his son Henry comes along soon after for one of the best offices in the county, it looks as though a little too much was being solicited by a family in the line of public favors.

On the other hand no one of the Shaffer family, of which Ellis Shaffer is a member, has been given an office in this county. The Shaffers are large taxpayers and good, law-abiding citizens and are worthy of recognition. Ellis Shaffer is a poor man and would appreciate such a favor at this time.

We do not believe that public offices should be monopolized by the few, and when you consider that point seriously Ellis Shaffer's candidacy should meet with approval.

BERRY MEETING.

As our newspaper closes its forms Wednesday evening, it is impossible to give an extended account of the meeting in the Court House at that time. Candidate Berry and Hon. Scott R. Ammerman arrived on the noon train and were met by a delegation of citizens who escorted them to the hotel. After resting a few hours they were driven about town to the various points of interest. A large number of prominent people from all parts of the county were in town for the meeting and the Court house was packed. The speeches were plain, practical, truths, driven home to convince any man that the time was ripe to investigate our State Treasury, the same as is being done in Philadelphia.

Mayor Berry held the large audience until half past ten. He is a wonderful speaker, the best heard in Belleville for many years.

Sankey-Smith.

M. N. Sankey, of Potters Mills, and Miss Annie, only daughter of ex-prothonotary and Mrs. W. F. Smith, of Millheim, was married on Tuesday of last week. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Smith the wedding was a very quiet one.

—Beautiful pictures free, if you buy your shoes of Yeager & Davis.

ODD FELLOWS MEET.

Our Town Thronged With Members of The Order.

The Grand Encampment I. O. O. F., held its annual session in Belleville the past week and was a notable gathering of representatives of the higher branch of the noble order from all parts of the State. Sunday delegates began to arrive and by Monday the various hotels of our town were thronged, most of the men wearing the regulation uniform of the order, and decorations, which present a handsome appearance.

The large banner across High street, at the local lodge rooms in Crider's Exchange, induced other business houses to decorate for the event and our main thoroughfares in consequence were in festive garb.

The sessions were held in the hall on third floor of Crider's stone building, and were for the purpose of transacting business pertaining to the order, and this is the 76th annual communication for that purpose.

The Grand Encampment held their annual meeting Monday morning. It was their 12th annual session and there was a larger representation than has been present in years.

Department Commander Major General J. B. Andrews, of Altoona, who is also president of the council, presided, with Lieutenant W. E. Rodkey, of Altoona, taking the records.

All the department officers were present and reports from various cantons showed a large increase in membership, as well as a flourishing financial condition.

Five members were elected to the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, one of the highest decorations in the order. They are Lieutenant Colonel W. W. McFalls, of Canton Lancaster, No. 25; Capt. A. J. Patzer, Canton Allegheny, No. 32; Major C. W. Fox, Canton Altoona, No. 24; Major Eugene Dunn, Canton Erie, No. 12, and Ensign Eugene Dunning, Canton Philadelphia, No. 1.

Much routine business was transacted, after which the following officers were elected:

President, Major General J. B. Andrews, Canton Altoona, No. 24; vice-president, Brigadier General William Tonkin, Canton Lancaster, No. 25; treasurer, Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Batroff, Canton Philadelphia, No. 1; officer of the day, Brigadier General George L. Cassell, Canton Lancaster, No. 25; aid, Major William J. Schauble, Canton Erie, No. 12; sentinel Captain L. J. A. Lesser, Canton Ridgway, No. 54; picket, Lieutenant Charles J. Gottwalt, Canton York, No. 14; chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel E. T. Davis, Canton Scranton, No. 4.

Monday night the Patriarchs Militant held a general reception for the officers and representatives of the Grand Encampment.

Tuesday morning a public meeting was held in the Court House which was the opening session. On this occasion, J. C. Meyer, Esq., of our town who is prominently identified with this order in the state, presided at the meeting, which was largely attended. The address of welcome was made by our Burgess, W. Harrison Walker, Esq., who bid our guest a cordial welcome and assured them the hospitality of the town during their fraternal deliberations. The response was made by Chom Guquelas, the Grand Patriarch, of Pittsburg.

After these exercises they marched to their hall, headed by the Coleville band, and at once entered into the important business of the order. Tuesday afternoon they went to Pa. State College for an outing and were escorted through that institution.

The sessions closed Wednesday with two important meetings, one at 9 o'clock and the other at 2 p. m. The communication was a most successful gathering and all departed delighted with their visit to our town.

DOES IT MATTER TO THE TAXPAYERS

Practically Admit That Charges Are All True.

THE PEOPLE PAY THE BILLS

A Few Instances Given of Extravagant Prices For Bridges—Two Letters to The Point—Investigation Demanded—Truth Coming Out.

We find that the taxpayers of Centre county have watched with eager interest the disclosures made by this paper in regard to the conduct of our County Commissioners with various bridge agents.

At first, our statements were branded as "a lie pure and simple." After the positive evidence was given of three trips, (to St. Louis, Washington, D. C. and Atlantic City,) came the apology that there was no wrong so long as they "traveled in respectable company," evidently not caring who finally paid the bills.

Now the last argument is found in the following, from the "Bituminous Record," of Philipsburg:

"What does it matter to the taxpayers of Centre county if our present County Commissioners, Abram V. Miller and John G. Bailey, have their expenses paid by some one else while on a little vacation, about which the Centre Democrat, of Belleville, is blowing so much? What do the people care as long as they do not have to foot the bill?"

These "little vacations" to St. Louis, Washington, D. C. and Atlantic City cost on a conservative estimate in the neighborhood of \$1000. To that should be added entertainment and courtesies at the Commissioners State Conventions in Erie, Pittsburg and Scranton of a hundred or two more, and then add to that costly presents to certain members of the board all of which will total near \$1500—can bridge companies, through pure motives, make such donations? We doubt it.

Can public officials accept such courtesies (some would call it graft, others name it indirect bribes) without compromising themselves? As to who ultimately pays for these "little vacations" you may tell it to children in the nursery or write it in fairy tales that our people don't pay more for the bridges they buy from these people; but the grown up man, who has been out in the world, certainly has positive ideas of his own. It all must "come out in the wash;" bridge companies are prospering and our bridge expenses have increased three fold—further argument is useless.

Our County Commissioners are the agents of the people; by their oaths they pledge their "sacred word and honor" to protect the interests of the people of Centre county as against all forms of extortion, extravagance and graft. If you would employ an attorney at a good fee, to defend important interests, and when in the performance of his duty, he would place himself under personal obligations to the other side by accepting costly favors, courtesies, presents or "little vacations" his very conduct would be unprofessional, subject to suspicion—would you tolerate him longer? Would you?

RECAPITULATION.

The following extracts are from the annual statements, showing amounts paid to some bridge companies:

1904.
Penn Bridge Co., award Everett bridge Haines Twp. \$1050.00
1905.
Penn Bridge Co., award Osceola Mills bridge and repairs Curtin, Eagleville, Fort Matilda and Unionville bridges. 4730.00
Total for 2 years. \$5780.00
A trip to St. Louis Exposition September 8th 1904 with that company's agent.

1904.
York Bridge Co., award Lose Bridge, Haines Twp., and Snow Shoe Twp. bridge. \$228

1905.
York Bridge Co., award Kuhn Bridge, Liberty Twp., Hoarserville Bridge, College Twp., and Pine Grove Mills bridge. \$2715

Total. \$5022.00
A trip to Washington, D. C. March 1904 with the company's agent.

1905.
Nelson & Buchannan Co., balance Centre county's portion Winburn bridge and repairs Karthaus bridge. \$1761.25
From the 1904 statement we copy:

1904.
Nelson & Buchannan Co., on account of cost of material and repairs Karthaus bridge and Winburn bridge. \$1761.25
Total. \$3522.50

The last trip was September 10th 1905, with that company's agent who registered the party at the "New Princess."

We will find out at the coming election whether the "people care" or not? That John G. Platt's "Bituminous Record" does not, is no surprise.

SOME GOOD POINTS.

The following communication, from a prominent citizen of the county, voices a good sentiment. The writer appears

to know what he is talking about:

Editor CENTRE DEMOCRAT:— In defence of the Board of Commissioners, known as "Bridge Builders" the Gazette of Oct. 6th printed the County Bridge expense for the year ending Jan. 1905. In closing the article it invites the taxpayers to "look over the statement, scrutinize it carefully." We wish to be fair with the Commissioners and would say that perhaps the majority of the people are not well enough informed as to the cost of iron bridges for them, at least when their dimensions are not given. We find in their statement the estimate of \$8000 needed for bridges while the Gazette's statement shows they expended \$19,133.41 which would go to show that they are pretty well up in the bridge business. There are however a few items in this statement that every taxpayer can form an idea as to what the probable cost should be. I copy from the Gazette's statement the following items, "Paid for painting Greenbrier, Fleisher, Eagleville and Curtin bridges \$267.33; paid National Paint Co. \$325.20. The above bridges are small township bridges that would not probably average fifty feet in length, while the average cost for painting is in round numbers \$67.00. Let every intelligent taxpayer for one moment consider the surface to be covered by paint on a fifty-foot iron bridge, and can you find one but will say that it is downright robbery? How many of the farmers and mechanics of our county can afford to beautify their homes by painting their buildings, if the labor of painting a small iron bridge costs \$67.00? Will the Commissioners or the Gazette stand up and say this is a reasonable charge for the work? What say you, honest taxpayers? Scores of good painters in the county would do the job for one-sixth the amount paid and would say they had a good living profit on the work.

Yet this is not all the expense connected with these jobs. We find in the Commissioners individual account, one charging eight days, one seven days and the other fifteen days, making a total of thirty days for inspecting bridges at \$3.50 per day amounting to \$105.00. Allowing that part of this time was taken up inspecting new bridges, we are safe in saying that the painting of the above bridges cost the county at least \$75.00 each. This is but one item of expense, showing the extravagance and incompetency of the present board of Commissioners. May we not infer that while dealing with the shrewd and slick bridge agent that the same extravagance enters into the purchase of new bridges, as they exceed their estimate for new bridges over one-half.

Let every honest taxpayer but scan the annual statement of the Commissioners and you will find the same extravagance cropping out most of their contracts. If the books were opened and a full statement made I believe it would show that the county today is many thousand dollars in debt. Two of the present board are before the people for vindication and election for another term. What have they to present to the people in vindication of their actions as public officers? With all the juggling of figures the statement shows increased expenditures, incompetency, and reckless extravagance. It is for the voters to say whether they will endorse such a course, or demand a change. TAXPAYERS, Blanchard, Pa., Oct. 15, 1905.

ANOTHER LETTER.

Levont, Pa., Oct. 16, 1905.

EDITOR KURTZ:— I have read with interest the charges, the candidates Miller and Bailey have traveled to Atlantic City, Washington, D. C. and the World's Fair at St. Louis at the expense of the bridge companies, to which they have awarded the contracts for certain bridges. The charges I believe true. Neither Miller nor Bailey deny them. They do not, because they cannot.

I have also read the effort of the editor of the Gazette to work up a defence for these men, who were unwilling to put one up for themselves. How easy it would be to put up a good solid defence to your charges if the candidates were not guilty of every charge you make. Harter has sweat and howled and dragged matters, entirely irrelevant, into the issue. The only mistake you make is in letting Harter draw you from the text.

The charges, we repeat, are true. If you can get at it, you will find the graft of these candidates goes quite a bit deeper than trips to the seashore or World's Fair, or our National Capital. Every one of these trips were paid for two or three times over, by the taxpayers of the county in exorbitant prices for bridge contracts, awarded before the trips were taken.

In the issue of the Gazette, of Oct. 6, Harter sets out in detail the bridges built in 1903 and 1904. We would like to see the list for 1905. There is quite a list and at two prices.

But look at the list Harter gives for 1904 and you will find that the Penn Bridge Co., for putting in steel joists and re-planking the bridges at Curtin, Eagleville, Port Matilda, and Unionville received \$4080.00. There are men in the county who know all about bridges who will tell you that \$3000.00 should have covered this bill, and at a profit.

Then take the amount paid the York Bridge Co. for the bridge at Pine Grove Mills, \$1335.00. We do not complain any of the bridges built, but I we complain that the people paid very much more for many of these bridges than they were honestly worth.

Sometime in 1904 a bridge was built across Sinking Creek in Potter township. This bridge was, as I am informed, first let for \$1700.00 or more. Some of the other agents were about to raise a fuss and threatened vengeance because of the high price of the bridge and it was finally contracted for at much less. This summer there has been a bridge built across Buffalo Run this side of Coleville. It is a small affair, several good, stout men could pick it up and carry it away. It looks so at least. Bridge men, who should know, do say that the iron superstructure is worth about \$450.00. The

Continued at bottom of next column.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

It is much easier to find fault than to lose it.

The first fall suit was made of fig leaves.

Foundrymen are busiest when they are casting lots.

If it wasn't for folly we wouldn't appreciate wisdom.

When a fellow is short he often does some tall thinking.

There is no similarity between a man's diary and a hymn book.

It is often easier to swallow a doctor's stories than his medicine.

ABOUT PUMPKIN PIE.

The pumpkin crop, like all else, is a large one, and the pumpkins larger than ever. This argues that pumpkin pie will rule every good house wife's table, and please the palate of all lovers of that which is truly good. The man, or woman, rather, that invented pumpkin pie and pumpkin custard, is worthy of having his, or her, birthday made a legal holiday, even if some of the less important ones must be wiped from the statute books. Pumpkin pie goes back to the days of the early settlers, as we judge from the couplet of our boyhood years, in which "pumpkin pie" received honorable mention in a poetic way, and the youths were fond of repeating it when in a mood to recite rhymes in the nursery and at play. And it ran thus:

An Injun fight,
Over a pumpkin pie—
The white man kicked out
The red man's eye.

Waiter, please pass another slice of that pumpkin pie. The Centre Democrat will at all times "second the motion."

Then there is that other juvenile rhyme that goes away back, and is still rattled off from the tongues of little ones, which would indicate that pumpkins must have been big too in ye olden day. It runs thus:

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,
Had a wife and couldn't keep her;
He put her in a pumpkin shell,
And there she kept her well.

A WORM EATER.

Prof. Surface, of State College, announces that he is willing to eat a cabbage worm, which many believe is a poisonous creature, and by this heroic act disprove the libel upon the denizen of the cabbage. Now if any reader of the Democrat labors under this delusion and will go on a hunt among his cabbage heads for a worm and take it to the Prof. and have him eat it, that will remove the superstition of the crawler in the sauerkraut plant being poisonous. A snail is a near relative of the cabbage worm and with all Frenchman it is a national delicacy. Prof. Surface should say whether he eats such a worm as one does a raw oyster, with pepper, salt and vinegar, or dipped in sugar, as if it were a delicious strawberry. There is a tribe of Indians, the Digger Indians, out in the Rocky mountain section, that dig for and eat worms and get fat on them. Why should not a cabbage worm, pasturing within a cabbage head, be more palatable than a hideous earth worm such as the Digger Indian loves for a meal? If Prof. Surface can succeed in having the cabbage worm used upon our tables as a desert then there will be an advance in price and large demands for cabbage heads that have the worms and only the rich will be able to feast upon the crawlers. As for us, give us the cabbage and sauerkraut without the worm which we'll courteously leave for the esteemed Prof.

Married at Camden.

Monday morning S. W. Buddinger and Miss Doll Glenn, of Snow Shoe, took the morning train at this place, and later were married at Camden, N. J., and arrived home Wednesday evening. The news of the wedding was a complete surprise to their many friends. Mr. Buddinger is a bookkeeper in his father's store and Miss Glenn had been a stenographer in the same department, and that is where they wooed, and planned this event.

Commissioners contracted for it at \$900 or \$950.00. Then I see that the bridge in your town, across the race, built this year, cost about \$7,000. Is that not an enormous sum? I hear people, who should know, say that \$5000 would be a big price. I wish you would have some of these contracts investigated further.

These prices the people pay, and in them is included what it costs to take our commissioners to the various places, you tell us they were taken by the agents for the bridge companies. Your charges are true, they have not and will not be denied. Men who accept such trips at the expense of the bridge agents will soon begin to accept more for awarding a bridge contract to this or that company. It is graft, nothing less.

Now you stick to your text. Let Harter yell and make all the charges against you he may. You are not a candidate. He cannot defend his candidates, that is why he gets personal.

Very respectfully,
A CITIZEN.