

Circulation Over 4,300 Largest in Centre County.

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CENTRE COUNTY IN DEBT.

An Increase of 60 per cent in Taxes Necessary--Sworn Statement of Ambrose Slotman and Coms. Ab. V. Miller Verifies it--Things not Generally Known--Gazette's Declarations Wont Pay County's Debts--Wants a 3rd-Term on Top of This

The average expenditures of Centre county from 1885 to 1900 for a period of fifteen years were \$61,321.02. From 1900 for a period of three years the average expenditures were \$63,436.06. In these eighteen years, two terms or six years were under former republican boards. During the year of 1905 the expenditures jumped to \$87,414.89. For weeks and weeks the last Annual Statement was delayed. Bills for supplies, contracted for during the year and delivered, do not appear in the Statement evidently to carry it over to keep down the indebtedness for political effect. This \$87,000 expenditure is an increase of about \$25,000 spent over that of former years. The assessed valuation of Centre county is \$12,000,000 and the tax rate is three mills, which annually produces \$36,000. The income from licenses, unseated lands, state funds and other sources, (which can not be increased or diminished by the commissioners to meet an increase in expenditures) is between \$20,000 and \$25,000, making the total annual income about \$62,000. When the expenses of the county exceed its total income, that increase must be paid by direct taxation on our properties. From the above figures you will note that the increased expenses last year, over the income, were near \$25,000. If 3 mills produce \$36,000, to collect \$25,000 additional, means, two-thirds or 66 per cent more tax, or an increase of 2 mills to the present 3 mills, or a 5 mill tax is necessary to pay these total expenditures. You must get the money somehow, from someone, and direct taxation is the only possible way left. How Centre county can pay \$87,000 on an income of \$62,000 and not increase our regular taxes, can not be explained away, or denied. The expert on finances at the Gazette, in the face of this situation, says it is not necessary to increase taxes. We quote from the Gazette, Oct. 6th, 1905: "It would be impossible to increase the taxes without increasing the millage which they have not done and WILL NOT DO." In the next issue of October 13th, 1905, this same wizzard on county finances declares: "The commissioners have not added one penny to the county tax, and they will not * * * three mills is the county tax and it cannot be raised unless the millage is raised which will not be done, notwithstanding the predictions of certain newspapers." Of course if his saying so would pay the bills, it would be correct; but it only deceives such taxpayers who can't think for themselves.

SWORN TESTIMONY.

To support our statements above, we quote from testimony taken Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1903, before "H. C. Quigley, Master, No. 21 January sessions 1903--In the court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace in and for Centre county--In the matter of the condemnation proceedings of the Bellefonte, Aaronsburg and Young, manstown Turpike Road Co." to wit:
A. M. SLOTMAN, produced and sworn, on the part of the County Comms:
Q. What is your official position? A. Commissioner Clerk.
Q. Have the Commissioners with yourself, gone over the matter of income and expenses for the current year? A. Yes, sir.
Q. What balance did they have on hand the beginning of the current year? A. \$9,932.25.
Q. What was the estimated income for the year 1903? A. The income estimated compared with last year's income, would be about \$55,000.
Q. Did you make an estimate to the beginning of the year of your current expenses, and the expenses of previous years? A. Yes, we did.
Q. What was the estimated general expense for the year 1903? A. The general expenses were estimated at \$55,000.
Q. What is the value of property in this county for purposes of taxation? A. Twelve millions.
Q. What is the county millage? A. Three mills.
Q. So in that manner you raise about \$36,000? A. Yes.
Q. If you should have to add \$30,000 to your present current expenses what would be the average for this year, over and above the income and the balance on hand at the beginning of the year? A. There would be a difference of \$65,000 and \$93,000 or \$28,000.
Q. What additional millage would be required to raise \$28,000? A. About 2 1/2 or 2 4/7.

A. V. MILLER, called and affirmed on the part of the county.
Q. What is your official position? A. County Commissioner.
Q. You heard the testimony of Mr. Slotman in relation to the balance on hand at the beginning of the year, and the estimate of the current income; state whether that is correct? A. YES SIR.
Q. You also heard his testimony with reference to the estimate of general expenses, and bridge work, and repairs to the court house; state whether or not they are all correct. A. They are all correct, and I think he is a little wrong in what was expended on the jail.
Q. You heard the testimony of Mr. Slotman, with reference to the additional millage, that would be necessary in order to pay these expenses; state whether that is correct? A. I believe he said 2 1/2 mills.
The substance of this testimony is that in 1903 when no campaign was on hand, on oath, Mr. Slotman says, and Com. A. V. Miller corroborates it, that when the county expenses go \$30,000 above THE INCOME the millage must be raised 2 1/2 mills or to 5 1/2 mills. Within a few thousand dollars that very condition came to pass this year and proves that at least 5 mills tax will be necessary for an \$87,000 expenditure. If \$93,000 require 5 1/2 mills, \$87,000 certainly will necessitate at least 5 mills.
Notwithstanding the Gazette's sweeping assertions, Coms. Miller and Bailey's incompetency and extravagance has made an increase in the taxes of over 60 per cent. They can't get away from it. If they don't increase the millage they must raise the valuations, so what is the difference. We must pay our indebtedness. The writer has the absolute authority to state that at the first of the present year the County Commissioners knew that Centre county was deeply involved--was in debt. They also discussed at that time the necessity of increasing the millage--but as they came up for a re-election this year it was not done. Centre county is in debt. The voters of Centre county refused A. J. Griest, (the first man to pull the county out of debt) a THIRD TERM. A. V. Miller, as President of the Commissioners Board, is largely responsible for running the county into debt for the first time since A. J. Griest's term expired, and upon this record is soliciting from the taxpayers a THIRD TERM.

\$6,000,000 STEAL.

The Latest Exposure Beats all Previous Gang Robberies.

The Investigating Committee reports \$6,330,000 fraudulently taken from Philadelphia by filtration jobs. The Committee in its report on Saturday, signed by Maj. Cassius E. Gillette, of the United States engineer corps, who investigated the Savanna harbor frauds, and John Ronald MacLennan, of Washington. The report shows that up to date Philadelphia has lost through excessive costs, collusive bids, illegal advertising and in other ways the sum of \$6,330,000. The contractors who received most of the more than \$18,000,000 that have been expended on improvements are D. J. McNichol & Co., James A. Ryan and John W. Kelley and Vare Bros. The members of the McNichol firm are Israel W. Durham, lead-

er of the local Republican organization; State Senator J. P. McNichol, also a city leader, and the latter's brother, Daniel. The officials held responsible by the report for some of the conditions in connection with the filtration system are William C. Haddock, who was Director of Public Works under Mayor Weaver until last May when the mayor dismissed him, and John W. Hill, former chief of the bureau of filtration who is awaiting trial on charges of fraud and falsification of records in connection with the construction of the filtration system. This report of the gigantic steal of \$6,330,000, by republican gang leaders, fell upon the city of Philadelphia like terrific thunder from a cloudless sky and appalled thousands of its taxpayers. This monstrous robbery by the machine leaders, in addition to millions previously stolen by the gang and exposed by Mayor Weaver.

An Unwarranted Attack

The last issue of the "Keystone Gazette" contained a letter, over the name of John Stoner, of Millheim, which charged Ellis Shaffer directly with being guilty of some very dishonorable business transactions, in consequence of which Mr. Stoner claims he suffered great financial loss. Mr. Stoner also declares:--"no decent man knowing this gentleman as I do, would trust him to anything, and as I am a heavy taxpayer, I PROTEST AGAINST HIM BEING ELECTED TO THE RESPONSIBLE POSITION OF SHERIFF OF THIS COUNTY."

If that statement is true, no honest man in Centre county could consistently support Mr. Shaffer.

If that statement is untrue, unwarranted, and a malicious assault upon an innocent man's character, because he is a candidate, it is up to every fair minded man to emphatically resent it as his sense of justice prompts him.

Mr. Shaffer has had an open circular issued in order to defend his good name and character, in which he replies to this charge; other positive evidence is also submitted to show under what remarkable conditions Mr. Stoner signed the letter; that Mr. Stoner can't read or write and is of such an age when mental faculties become impaired, and memory is at fault; that Mr. Homan, the other member of the firm fully exonerates Mr. Shaffer; that the publisher of the Gazette was duly notified by reliable authority, (a representative citizen of Bellefonte,) that Mr. Stoner's letter was untrue, and should not be published.

Special attention is called to the statement of G. E. Homan, who had personal supervision of the business, and is the most competent to speak--not a democrat, therefore has no political motive in what he says.

We republish the greater portion of Mr. Shaffer's circular on the last page of this issue. We will not comment on the justice or injustice of this attack or the motive that inspired Mr. Harter to secure and publish this Stoner letter--only ask our readers to carefully read same, form their own conclusions as to whether or not this is a vicious, untruthful assault, and if such methods should be tolerated any longer in this county--and on next Tuesday to deal with Mr. Shaffer's candidacy as is just and right.

JUST ONE BRIDGE.

The bridge across the race in Bellefonte was completed recently. It is a 30 foot span and 80 feet wide. Originally the structure was supposed to cost complete \$4000. The superstructure has cost about \$6800 and the foundations over \$1000, making a total of \$8000.

An estimate of the cost of material used in the superstructure of this bridge and of the labor to place it where it is, has been furnished the Watchman by one fully conversant with all the details of the work, and which he tells is considerably above the actual prices paid by contractors for such material:

32 1/2 tons structural iron at \$5 per ton	\$162.50
14 1/2 paving bricks \$18 per thousand	262.50
18 000 common red brick for base of grouting at \$0 per thousand	80.00
100 barrels common cement	125.00
crushed stone for grouting	50.00
sand for paving	30.00
3 skilled mechanics, 12 days at \$5 per day each	180.00
4 day laborers 12 days at \$1.50 per day	72.00
1 superintendent 12 days at \$6 per day	72.00

Total Cost of Bridge.....\$1,935 00

Add 10 per cent to these figures for contractor's profits and you still fall THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS BELOW THE AMOUNT THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE CONTRACTED TO PAY FOR THIS BRIDGE.

So that in this one little job, after allowing one hundred per cent, profit to the builders, the county is mulcted in the sum of TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY DOLLARS.

And yet there are people who wonder why the county expenditures have increased about \$25,000 a year under the present management, and millage and TAXES have to be increased 60 per cent or to 5 mills.

And the men who are responsible for this kind of reckless extravagance in county affairs have the nerve to ask the taxpayers, who are thus being robbed, to continue them in office.

If you favor this kind of jobbery shown above, you should vote for Mr. Bailey and Mr. Miller.

ANOTHER STATEMENT?

On Sunday Editor Harter drove to Millheim and brought Mr. Stoner to Bellefonte and entertained him at his home. We are led to believe, from correspondence that was sent out on Monday, that Mr. Stoner was induced by him to make a third statement to repudiate the one he made to Mr. Zerby at Centre Hall. If that is the case, it is further proof that Mr. Stoner, at the age of 55, is easily controlled by anyone; and that is sufficient to show that his first declaration, published in the Gazette, deserves no serious consideration.

The fact that Mr. Harter took advantage of this old gentleman, under such circumstances, to defame Ellis Shaffer's character, makes the act all the more detestable.

Another thought: Had these charges been true they would have been produced months ago, instead of at the close of a campaign.

BRIDGE GRAFT.

The new State bridge being built across Penn's Creek, at Selingsgrove, will, it is alleged by some of the most influential citizens, prove disastrous to the Machine candidate for State Treasurer, in Snyder county, J. Lee Plummer.

The bridge will cost \$65,000 of which \$7000 will be loaded upon the taxpayers of Snyder county. In the neighboring townships it is the topic of heated discussion, and Mr. Plummer's gang is being held responsible for the iniquitous law under which this species of "graft" is made possible.

The Selingsgrove Times, whose editor, Joseph G. Lesher, is a candidate for County Commissioner, asserts that this bridge is a gigantic steal, as it should not cost over \$20,000 to build it.

HARRY JACKSON will make a good, competent official. He has been maligned, abused and grossly misrepresented the past year by Editor Harter, in about the same style as the Gazette attacked Ellis Shaffer. Vote for Jackson thereby rebuke the Gazette.

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS.

On 3rd section, page four, of the Democrat, this issue, will be found a sample ballot. And in first and second columns of same page will be found full instructions to voters how to prepare their ballots before voting. This is important and should receive the closest attention of every democrat so there will be no mistake in preparing the official ballot.

This sample ballot is an exact copy of the official ballot, and can be cut-out of this issue of the paper, marked at home as to how you wish to vote, and can be taken into the booth by the voter to aid him in correctly marking his official ballot.

In an able speech in Lebanon concerning Treasury abuses and corruptions John H. Fow declared that if the financial affairs of this State were well administered in accordance with the Constitution and laws, the taxes that are now imposed on horses, carriages and mortgages could be repealed. What doubt can there be of this--with a surplus of \$12,000,000 in the general Treasury, which is farmed for the mutual profit of the Machine and its favorite banks? Mr. Fow could have added that there is no necessity for maintaining the mercantile license tax, which yields a yearly revenue of about a million dollars.

AND only a few years ago a man known as Samuel Whittaker Penny-packer, who afterwards received a machine nomination for Governor, which nomination was stolen from one John P. Elkin, said "Pennsylvania has no ills worthy of mention." At that very time Bill Andrews, Frank J. Torrence, Arthur J. Kennedy, Walter Lyon and other prominent Gang politicians were carrying funds out of the State treasury by the hundreds of thousands to build a railroad down in New Mexico.

Get out the Vote.

OFFICES ONLY FOR THE RICH.

The "Rich" Editor of the Gazette says Poor Men and Non-Property Holders "Not to be Trusted" in Office--An Insult to Every Honest, Upright Citizen who is Poor and Owns no Property--Offices Only for the Rich--How do You Like it--Guilty by His own Words.

In the last issue of the "Gazette" Editor Harter, in his characteristic way, recklessly replies to a statement made in the Centre Democrat, by saying "YOU LIE! YOU KNOW YOU LIE!" etc" in the following:

The GAZETTE alleges "that Mr. Dunlap owns no property, is poor and therefore should not be elected County Commissioner." If this argument is to be considered then no poor man, however worthy or able he may be, could become a candidate for any office. --From Centre Democrat Oct. 20th.

The Gazette copied the above and under it replied:

From the Gazette, Oct. 27:

"You lie! You know you lie!"--Gazette.

If the "Centre Democrat" cannot prove its statement, it certainly did lie. If the Gazette made such statements about John Dunlap then this paper has told the truth and Editor Harter appears ridiculous, and ill-tongued.

Now, if the reader will carefully note the following extracts, we will show that the Gazette does oppose John Dunlap's election because he is a poor man and owns no property, and said such men should not hold office. If we prove that, by the Gazette's own words, it is in order for every poor man to resent the insult.

The following extracts are from various issues of the Keystone Gazette, which can be seen at this office:

June 6, 1902, the Gazette said:

"Mr. Dunlap is a poor man. While the rest of the candidates traveled in buggies and by railroad, he footed it into every part of the county."

September 28, 1905, the Gazette said:

"You know that Mr. Dunlap is now going over the county on foot pleading poverty. HE IS A POOR MAN, etc."

In the same issue the Gazette, in another paragraph, argues that poor men who own no property are not fit to hold office:

"The people of Bellefonte are now galling under a 31 mills tax, heaped upon them by a democratic Reform Council which is composed of nearly all non-property holders and who do not care who pays the taxes. * * * Mr. Kurtz is trying to force upon the county a board of NON-TAX PAYING COMMISSIONERS. Do you want the experience of the people of Bellefonte tried on the tax-payers of the county?"

This is what the Gazette said and meant on that point, because councilmen were poor and owned no property: --

From Gazette, July 14, 1905:

"WILL BELLEFONTE'S NOSE BE KEPT ON THE GRINDSTONE FOREVER BY A GANG OF IRRESPONSIBLES."

"The Bellefonte town council is going on with city improvements as though we had unlimited means and no debts to pay * * *

"If they were all property-owners would they proceed as promiscuously in improvements as they have started out this summer and keep it up if they knew that the law would not allow them to borrow any more money on the property they own?"

"If they would do this would they not be looked upon by conservative business men as individuals who do not show a capability of managing their own affairs successfully and a such CAN NOT BE TRUSTED WITH the transaction of business so voluminous as that which concerns a population of five thousand people?"

"These are plain words plainly spoken, and we voice but the sentiment of every tax-payer when we ask:

"Are there not enough men in our town council even if they do not have any property in their own name--who will consider our condition and refuse to follow the lead of a gang of hot-headed irresponsibles who run up debts which they never have any prospect of HELPING to pay?"

September 2nd and the Gazette said:

"Charley Kurtz was anxious to have John Dunlap and Weaver for commissioners, for his benefit. * * * The triumvirate does not want any honest farmer on their ticket. * * * A board of commissioners (certainly Harter here is referring to Miller and Bailey) who are large taxpayers might not suit their personal interests. But with DUNLAP WHO PAYS NO TAXES and Weaver who is a very small tax-payer, the machine knows full well that care and economy in the administration of county affairs would be a secondary matter with them."

The above extracts from the Gazette positively declare that Dunlap and Weaver are poor, and for that reason they are incapable, and even intimates for that reason they are "not to be trusted," or to hold important offices.

Is this not an insult to every poor, honest, upright man in Centre county?

"PART RECOMPENSE."

Our amiable neighbor on Allegheny street, across the alley from Parrish's drug store, is oblivious as to what is going on in Philadelphia, Pittsburg and the great life insurance companies in New York by which the gang leaders are stealing from the tax-payers and policy-holders, and keeps his readers in the dark. But then "I send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter."

The always put your-foot-in-it organ has not learned that Root, and Roosevelt, Charles Emory Smith, Ex-Governor Stone, Mayor Weaver, and a legion of other good and prominent republicans have deserted the rotten and sinking ship on which the luminary rides that steers the Gazette on breakers all the time whilst believing he is one of the big apples in the swim. "But I send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter."

While Kline may fight at a camp-meeting and assist in putting pugilistic life into public sales, the Gazette thinks it needless to go into the fight as he carries the county by his might and at the wave of his hand, while "I send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter."

While all the world is on the qui vive as to what the balance of this part of the "recompense" is going to be, in the mean time "I will send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter."

Whilst prolific in schemes that get others into trouble and which always drives me out at the little end of the horn, yet "I send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter." I am taking lessons in graft--attending that school.

The Commissioners have built bridges,

had their jankets and increased the county debt and expenses, which are trifles that I don't meddle with, but "I send you a copy of my German book with this mail as part recompense for the interest you have taken in this matter."

Impatiently all the world is waiting to see what the balance of this "recompense" will be in addition to "MY German book which I send you by this mail."

BERRY WILL BE ELECTED.

It is safe to predict that there will be a great upheaval in this state on next Tuesday. It will be an upheaval of public indignation, due to years of oppression and domination by a gang of public thieves who have used a political organization to loot the treasuries in Philadelphia and our State.

The latest scandal is the official report of a board of experts who inspected the public works in Philadelphia which shows that that city has literally been robbed systematically out of millions.

Out in Pittsburg, the bank experts, sent from Washington, who are inspecting the records of the Enterprise bank, find that the Gang put the state funds there and then used the same for their private speculation and busted the bank in which there were over a million of state funds.

It is too much! A long-suffering people will stand no more of it!

The people want some one to take the lid off of the State Treasury to know what is there. Plummer is the same Gang's tool, and stands by the Gang.

That is why the people want Berry--that is why every honest man should stand by Berry--that is why Berry will be elected.

Get out the Vote.