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BRIEF CHAPTER ON LOCAL POLITICS

John G. Love Boomed for Congressional Honors

OTHER AMBITIOUS INDIVIDUALS

The Political Trials of Noah H. Swayne, II, of the Nittany Furnace--A few Points on Borough Politics--Go to the Caucus Meetings

The announcement that Solomon (the boodler) Dresser would retire from Congress has set the local republican politicians to wig-wagging and many are the anxious ones to fill his shoes. While there are some other counties in the district, Centre is clamoring for recognition. Notice was served in the Gazette last week, that Hon. John G. Love would aspire to the honor; at the same time it gave every man who failed to support him recently for the judiciary a slap in the face--something that went good down very well with about a thousand independent voters in Centre county who use their own judgment, and will vote as they please. If Judge Love solicits the nomination for Congress, no doubt he could secure strong, local support; but if the judicial issue, which was settled at the polls recently, is to be revived in his congressional aspirations, it is his privilege. The public, for this reason, was amazed at the tone of the Gazette's article, which displays a generous lack of political diplomacy. We would imagine that a gentleman seeking congressional honors would not be inclined to offend public judgment or irritate old sores.

For some time a new luminary has dawned on our political horizon in the person of Noah H. Swayne, II, who by the way, is the I at one in our community, but not the original package. When scarcely acclimated in our salubrious atmosphere his political ambitions were surmised, upon his Ist splutter--that diagnosis now is proven correct. It is given out that Noah, who is named after the Ist famous navigator on record, aspires for Congress, but, when Love's candidacy became a fact, he took new tack and expressed a desire to be the delegate from Centre to the next Republican State Convention. Here he ran up against the II nd snag. As Col. Edward Chambers (not Edward the III) holds a position under the auditing department at Harrisburg, and the administration will soon change and he desires to be retained, he thinks he should represent his county in the State Convention to give him prestige, therefore he demands Ist chance which, we are informed, Noah the II, has generously conceded. And it came to pass that Noah was advised to build himself an ark, so that in case any political floods come he may steer his craft successfully on Capitol Hill, Harrisburg, Pa., as the member of the legislature from Centre. But now all signs indicate dry weather.

While the above gentlemen are porportioning out future estates, not yet acquired, Chairman Quigley has assigned to himself the nomination for State Senate; and if he and Noah the II succeed, it will bowl "Little Phil," the biggest duck in the pond about Philipsburg, clean high and dry--and there is where's the rub. In the above speculations the fact is not taken into consideration that Col. A. A. Dale, one of Bellefonte's able attorney's and most eloquent orators, is aspiring for congressional honors and may be heard from later--and his ancestry is about as honorable as some others. In borough politics there is little doing. We hear that Capt. John I. Curtin will not be a candidate for Burgess. It is possible that the republicans will nominate R. B. Taylor, and the democrats John J. Bower Esq. For tax collector the republican nomination is conceded to Wm. Cassidy and J. Kennedy Johnson, democrat, will be renominated.

For councilmen there is some skirmishing around and it looks as though political fences will be knocked skyhigh in the desire of our people to elect the very best men possible. This borough seems to be going deeper in the hole every year, owing to the extravagance practiced, and the jobs worked through for favored interests and the notorious incompetency of appointees. We need a change all around, from top to bottom, democrats as well as republicans. The only way to accomplish this is by every taxpayer going to the caucus meetings, instead of blowing hot air on the street corners.

Sale Bill Printing. All persons who will have sale this season should not delay much longer about selecting date and auctioneer. By this time the month of March is well filled up. Those who have done so should get their list of articles made up and in the hands of the printer so that he will have time to give your order attention. Don't wait until the last moment.

FOURTH COURT. In The School Teachers Book Award in Centre County

Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 24, 1906. The following is the total number of votes cast in the Teachers' Book Award in the various Institute Districts in Centre county to this date:

Table with 2 columns: District Name and Votes. Includes First District (Gregg, Haines, Miles, Millhelm and Penn), Second District (Centre Hall, College, Ferguson, Harris, Potter and State College), and Third District (Bellefonte, Benner, Spring and Walker).

Table with 2 columns: District Name and Votes. Includes Fourth District (Boggs, Curtin, Howard Howard boron, Liberty, Marion and Milesburg), Fifth District (Half Moon, Hastes, Patton, Taylor, Union, Unionville and Worth), and Sixth District (Burnside, Rush, Philipsburg, Snow Shoe and north Philipsburg Institute will meet at Snow Shoe, Saturday, Jan. 27th).

Sample sets of the 20th Century Encyclopedia have been placed at the following points in the county where the teachers are invited to call and carefully inspect each of the six volumes: Bellefonte, "Index" book store MILKHEIM, T. F. Meyer's store SPRING MILLS, C. A. Krape's store BOALSBERG, Ishler & Harrison CENTRE HALL, Murray's Drug store BLANCHARD, H. A. Snyder SNOW SHOE, Sickles Drug Store PHILIPSBURG, Crissman & Brown STATE COLLEGE, St. Col. Supply Co. UNIONVILLE, A. J. Greis's store HOWARD, Moore's Drug Store.

Premium Ballots. In addition, we issue Premium Ballots at this office to all who pay for subscription on the following basis: 50 votes for 1 year on arrears, 100 votes for 1 year in advance, 200 votes for each new cash sub. These votes have no time limit--can be held until the final count. 100 Votes for every \$1 worth of job printing, secured during the contest. In any case where a transfer of subscription is made in the same family or household, during this contest, no coupons will be allowed.

20th CENTURY ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The Centre Democrat. NEWSPAPER BALLOT

Form for newspaper ballot with fields for Name of Teacher, One Vote For, and instructions for use.

JANUARY COURT NOW IN SESSION

Another Murder Case Being Heard this Week

BERT DELIGE BEFORE COURT

Charged With Killing Ralph Williams, at Scotia Last Fall--Other Cases Tried and Verdicts Rendered--Judge Orvis on the Bench

January sessions of court convened on Monday morning at 10 o'clock, with the Hon. Ellis L. Orvis on the bench, and the other officers in places. Considerable time was taken up in hearing motions and petitions and the granting of rules. The grand jury was called, sworn and George L. Goodhart, a farmer of Potter township, was selected as foreman of the same. The constables of the several townships and boroughs then made their quarterly return. The civil trial list for this week was called over and the following cases disposed of: M. J. Averbek vs. F. P. Blair and Thomas Moore, late trading as F. P. Blair & Company, continued, it being special to Judge Orvis. Carrie E. Smith vs. Mary H. Snyder, settled. J. W. Neff vs. overseers of the poor of Snow Shoe township, continued. John I. Olewine vs. Mrs. Nettie Powell, settled. John B. Stetson & Company vs. Adleman and Ratowsky, continued.

The civil list for the second week was then called over and the following cases disposed of: Mary A. Davidson et al vs. Orvis Peters, settled. James C. Gilliland vs. J. H. Ross, Peter Jones, Adam Blazor, Joseph Stone and Joseph Krumrine, settled.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Commonwealth vs. Daniel W. McClellan indicted for betrayal, prosecutrix Martha Griffin. Defendant plead guilty and the usual sentence was imposed.

Commonwealth vs. Dennis Nolan indicted for assault and battery, prosecutor W. I. Hummel, defendant plead guilty and sentence was suspended upon payment of costs.

Commonwealth vs. Steve Bihari indicted for larceny in the store of Mr. Budinger at Clarence, Snow Shoe township, of three small awteers on the evening of December 11, 1905, the defendant having been seen taking goods by several persons and the goods were subsequently taken off of his person. Defendant changed his plea from that of not guilty to that of guilty after hearing Commonwealth's testimony.

The next case taken up was McCalmont & Company vs. Irvin G. Gray. This is an action brought by the plaintiffs to recover on book account and for some phosphate and hay loader. The defendant made a tender to the plaintiff of what he claimed was due and owing to them but denied the purchase of a hay loader as alleged by the plaintiffs, plaintiffs alleging that he had bought a second-hand hay loader from them. Verdict on Tuesday afternoon for \$43.83 and that the defendant had not purchased the hay loader.

Commonwealth vs. Michael Trubitzka, indicted for assault and battery, prosecutor Michael Scrap. This prosecution grows out of a litigation at a Hungarian christening in Snow Shoe township. Verdict of not guilty, and the prosecutor to pay one-third of the costs, the defendant two-thirds of the costs.

Com. vs. Albert Brandon, indicted for entering store to commit a felony, second count larceny, and third count, receiving stolen goods. Prosecutor Oliver Maguire. This defendant is a boy about twelve years of age and alleges that he was induced to go into the store by a man whom he didn't know, but he had said to him that he had forgotten his keys. He got tobacco and cigars and two revolvers out of the store. Being under the age of fourteen and the boy not having the appearance of a criminal or a knowledge of crime, the case was continued for further investigation as to his statements and as to his knowledge of what constituted crime.

Com. vs. Edgar Lutz, indicted first count desertion and non support of wife, second count, desertion of child and non support. Prosecutor Gertrude Lutz. This case on trial Wednesday morning.

This case is from Walker township and these two young people were married October 31, 1901. On Wednesday morning terms of settlement were agreed upon between the parties whereby the defendant plead guilty, sentence to be suspended until April sessions, pending the carrying out of the other terms of the agreement.

Commonwealth vs. Wm. Colpetzer, indicted first count, wantonly pointing fire arms; second count, carrying concealed deadly weapons, prosecutor Wm. Wellers. This case is from Benner twp. Verdict on Wednesday afternoon of guilty on the second count.

SCOTIA MURDER TRIAL. Commonwealth vs. Bert Delige, indicted for murder. Prosecutor G. W. Williams. This case is from Scotia. The defendant was brought into court at 11:30 Wednesday forenoon and arraigned, and counsel at once proceeded to challenge the jury upon their voir dire.

C. S. Bottorf, Potter; Maurice Miller, Bellefonte; S. R. Pringle, Worth. District Attorney Runkle opened the case, giving in detail what the Commonwealth expected to prove relative to the killing of Ralph Williams, the son of the prosecutor, at the school house at Scotia, on October 20th, 1905. The following witnesses testified in substance:

George W. Williams--live at Scotia for 20 years; wife Elise Williams one child left. Ralph Williams is 13 years old in June, 1905, being the one killed. Saw Ralph leave home for school at noon of the shooting. He was not a stout boy but was able to go to school and worked for Miss Meek the day before. Next saw him after he was shot. I went to the school house and found Ralph lying in a little hole, his head resting on the lap of Wilson Gnaner, other parties present. Wilson Haupt, Bert Delige, Daniel Daywalt and Sallie Meek, the teacher. Asked the defendant why he did this, and he said he took the gun down and it went off; the boy raised his head lightly and said "No Bert, you said you would shoot me." Took the boy home on a door gotten at the school house, and after Dr. Thompson had gotten there took the boy to the train to take him to the hospital at Altoona, and the boy died on the way. Brought his body back the next evening, being Saturday evening. Cross examination--live almost a mile from school; they had his leg bandaged with a handkerchief when I got there; he was shot in the left leg. Bert said he did not want to do it, Bert Delige helped take the boy home, but did not talk with him after we got home.

J. H. Wetzel--produced a draft of the roading to the school house and the school house grounds, showing the location of the relative positions. Dr. J. A. Thompson--Live at Port Matilda, but did live in October at Stormstown; was called to attend Ralph Williams on October 20th, got there sometime between half past two and three in the afternoon. Found the boy in his father's house, his leg tied up, the boy lying on a door or shutter on some coats and was in a state of collapse; had no pulse and heart very weak from loss of blood; put on another bandage. The bones and muscles, arteries and veins were all shot off. The entrance of the shot was about one inch in diameter and the exit between two and a half and three inches. The boy had bled a great deal. The shot was in the left leg about seven inches above the heel. He died from hemorrhages caused by the wound; the boy was practically dying when I came there.

Dr. S. M. Huff--Coroner of the County up until January 1st, 1906, and held a post mortem examination on the body of Ralph Williams on October 23rd, 1905, at his father's home, Murgies, bones and all organs shot off. Ureala Mattern, Marilla Bottorf, Anna Heberling, Ina Cronemiller, Marie Maffit, Beatrice Baisor, Florence Lytle, Grace Lytle, Grace Farber and Paul Farber, pupils of the Scotia school, then testified as to Bert Delige, the defendant, coming down the road with a gun on his left shoulder in company with his brother Budd litt opposite to the school house and of Ralph Williams going towards Bert Delige and the defendant taking the gun off his shoulder and pointing it in the direction of young Williams for a second or two when it was discharged and Williams fell screaming. Some of these witnesses testifying that Williams said to the defendant "Bert I want to tell you something," and the defendant testified moving the gun off of his shoulder "Watch out, I'll shoot you," while others heard nothing said; these pupils all ran into the school house when the shot was fired. Miss Bottorf, in addition, testifying that when the defendant and his brother were coming down the road she was by a chestnut tree gathering chestnuts and after the passing of courtesy, that the defendant said to her, "You better watch out or I'll shoot you," and smiled, and proceeded down the road. That the witness went across a strip of woods and came to the school house or nearby when Williams was shot.

CENTRE CO'S MILLAGE.

Just what the indebtedness of Centre county will be remains to be stated by the County Auditors, who have been in session since the first of this month. The same will be embodied in the Annual Statement which will be issued during the coming month of February. It is estimated that the county debt will be close on to \$40,000; some predict \$50,000. We have made no calculation, suffice to know that it will be amply large, and staggering. In spite of this condition of affairs, the last Board, Miller and Bailey, deliberately sent out the Appeal notices during the month of December fixing the millage at 3 mills, at the same time they knew they had unpaid notes in the various banks aggregating over \$42,000.00 also bills unpaid of over \$10,000. Such an act showed that they were totally unfit to comprehend the financial needs of the county, or with vicious intent plotted to embarrass the new Board. Messrs. Dunlap and Weaver have gone over the situation carefully and find that the general sentiment of the taxpayers is that this debt be wiped out at once. For that reason they have practically determined to raise the millage from 3 to 5 mills, this year if it can be done. The legality of the former board's action in fixing the rate at 3 mills, has been questioned and now is in the hands of County Solicitor for an opinion. This was nothing more than petty politics of the last Republican Board, to postpone the payment of debts created by them, so as to mislead the thoughtless as to who was responsible for same. The people know better.

ROAD LAW NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A Decision That Will Have Very Little Consideration

NEW ACT UPHELD EVERYWHERE

Opinions From Various Sources--A Large Number of Townships in Centre County Will Vote on the Road Law at Spring Election

The new road act has been declared unconstitutional already. The good roads law of 1905, which provides, among other things, that the system of taxation may be changed from a working tax to a cash tax, is unconstitutional, according to an opinion rendered by Judge Bouton of McKean county. His principle is that it offends against Article III, Section 7, of the constitution, which forbids special legislation. This act is special, he holds, in that it makes possible a system of taxation that is not uniform. Again, the system may be changed by the vote of the people in a township, which is a delegation of the law-making power to the voters, offending against Article III, Section 1, of the constitution. Besides this, Judge Bouton says, the legislature cannot, except by direct legislation, prevent the taxpayers from working out their tax, a privilege given them by the acts of 1834 and 1835.

LAW STILL VALID. Senator William C. Sprull, author of the so-called Sprull Good Roads law, says the decision of Judge Bouton, of McKean county, declared the road bill unconstitutional is incorrect.

Judge Bouton's decision did not relate to the road bill at all, but to the McKean bill, which was passed at the session of 1805 for the reorganization of a government of townships of the second class. This bill provided for a change in the supervisor's system, and also for doing away with the work tax on the township public roads, in which case the State was to give townships 15 per cent. of their road assessments.

Judge Bouton's decision does not affect the Good Roads law, under which the State Highway Department was originated and is working.

LAWYERS DISPUTE DECISION. Judge Bouton's opinion is directly contrary to the views of eminent lawyers whom Commissioner Hunter has consulted on this subject, and who hold that, as the privilege of voting upon the taxation question is given to all second class townships, it does not conflict with the constitutional provision against class legislation.

Commissioner Hunter says he was glad this question has come up for judicial determination, and that he hoped that an appeal would be taken by the township directly affected, so that a decision might be obtained from the higher courts as soon as possible in order to settle the point conclusively, and avoid confusion in the work of the Highway Department.

Those townships throughout the State that have arranged to vote on the question of paying their road tax in cash instead of working it out should not be deterred by the fact that the McKean county Court has declared unconstitutional the act under which they will vote. So far Judge Bouton stands alone in this opinion. Under the law the Court grants an order for an election to abolish the work system upon the request of a certain number of taxpayers of the township. In almost every county such requests have been made and granted. In some counties the interest in the matter is such that nearly every township has taken action, regarding it as a long step toward bettering the country roads. The question, therefore, has come before a majority of the Judges of the interior counties, but not one of them has taken the McKean view of the law. Under the circumstances the elections ought to go on. If Judge Bouton is right, and his opinion is ultimately sustained, the fact that many townships have voted on the question will do no harm. No real cost is attached to the voting; it will be done at the February election and means neither expense nor inconvenience, remarks the Philadelphia Press.

The following townships will vote at the spring elections on the question of cash road tax: Penn, Gregg, Potter, Harris, College, Ferguson, Spring, Walker, Boggs, Howard and Rush. Saturday was the last day for making application.

This latest senatorial apportionment, and the one that is likely to be adopted, places Clinton, Centre, Union and Cameron in one district. Clearfield is joined to Elk. This is the Godcharles apportionment and has the approval of a majority of the senators.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

Many a man has become great over night, but he always wakes up in the morning. As a rule the fellow who takes whisky for a cold doesn't care whether he gets over it or not. The footpad discovers that it is often necessary to knock a man down before you can hold him up. When a girl first meets a man with whiskers she wonders if he wouldn't be handsome with a smooth face.

13 PERSONS KILLED.

Cry of "Fire!" in Crowded Negro Baptist Church Causes Panic.

Eighteen persons were killed and probably half a hundred injured in a panic following the cry of "fire" Sunday night in St. Paul's Colored Baptist church, Philadelphia. A defective flue set fire to the chimney, causing smoke to issue through the crevices in the floor near the pulpit. A wild rush was made for the stairs, despite the efforts of Rev. E. W. Johnson, the pastor, to allay the fears of the frenzied people. All wanted to get out at once, and men, women and children alike were knocked down and trampled upon by those pushing from behind.

The crash and the screams and shrieks of the women and children added to the frenzy of those below. They did not stop in their onward rush to get out. Notwithstanding the wide open door on the first floor leading to the street, the crush was so great that eighteen persons had the lives stamped out of them before the panic was ended.

A general alarm was sent in for ambulances, firemen and policemen. In the meantime the greatest confusion reigned. Men and women ran about the streets calling for missing loved ones. A great crowd gathered and the work of rescue was promptly started. Dead and injured were quickly taken to hospitals and nearby houses. The fire was only trifling, the flames being extinguished before firemen arrived.

"What's the Matter?"

Our esteemed contemporary, the Gazette, last week got off the following:

"WHAT'S THE MATTER?" "We mean with the streets of Bellefonte. Tuesday High street in front of the Bush House was nothing but a sea of mud three or four inches deep. The crossings during muddy weather are in extremely bad condition for the want of the proper attention. We had far better have no crossings at all than to wade through several inches of water and mud. Ladies all over the town are protesting because they must endure this negligence on the part of some one whose business it is to see that pedestrians are protected against this nuisance."

The above does not state the case accurately as the condition of our streets are absolutely the worst ever known--a disgrace. Now if the Gazette wants to know "what's the matter" it can easily find out by referring to its files of last summer. When Sam Ryan, the new street commissioner for week's sat on the curbstones of our town at \$3 per day salary watching another man at work spreading an occasional load of limestone dust, the Gazette slobbered all over Ryan and the street committee for the grand (?) and substantial (?) improvements they were making. The reason why our streets are bad is the blunder of councilmen who ordered the dust--the reason why our town is riddled with debt is due to confirmed loafing and other serious shortcomings which are common talk of the town. The Gazette knows "what's the matter" if it only would speak its convictions.

Endorse Vaccination.

At a meeting of the Clinton County Medical Society, held on 20th, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, There has been some opposition in Lock Haven and throughout Clinton county to the efforts of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner of Health of Pennsylvania, to enforce the vaccination laws of 1895, the members of the Clinton County Medical Society desire to place themselves on record as upholding Dr. Dixon in his efforts to enforce the vaccination laws of Pennsylvania. We unanimously agree that the only way to prevent smallpox is by vaccination and those who try to prevent and bring it into contempt only show their ignorance and have never been treated or had anything to do with smallpox, otherwise they would not try to defeat the only preventive of this loathsome disease.

Give Us Good Men.

In selecting candidates pick out good men, men whose interests are so bound up with the interests of the public that they will devote as careful attention to the business of the public as they do to their own business. Men who are successful in the conduct of their own business are usually successful in the management of the public business. In conclusion we will say that this rule is generally followed. The few exceptions are so conspicuous as to prove the truth of the general rule.