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## AN HISTORICAL FARM IN HOWARD TOWNSHIP

### HOW THE ORIGINAL TITLE WAS SECURED

### WAS AWARDED TO A SOLDIER

#### For Services to His Country During the French and Indian Wars—Passed Through Many Generations— Worth Recalling.

(The following interesting sketch  
furnished by Hon. John A. Woodward,  
of Howard.)

By purchase of the interests of her three brothers, Abraham, John and William, Mrs. C. M. Nifty, formerly Miss Mary Weber, became owner of a farm which has been in the family for many years, and has, in addition, an interesting history leading back to the "French War," and to one of the earliest military organizations of the State: Under date of Philadelphia, July 20, 1755, Governor Robert H. Morris wrote the General Assembly as follows: "On the present emergency I think it proper on the part of the Proprietaries to prepare an additional encouragement to such persons as shall now engage and go upon an expedition from this or the neighboring provinces to remove the French from their encroachments on the River Ohio, to grant the following quantities of land, to wit: To every Colonel, 1,000 acres; to every Major, 500 acres; to every Lieutenant, 500 acres; to every common soldier, 200 acres. \* \* \* And I do recommend to you to afford some assistance to such as shall be inclined to accept of the above terms, and make settlement accordingly." July 31st Governor Morris wrote "To the Honorable Thomas Penn, Esquire," inclosing a copy of the above "message to the Assembly"; and on August 28, wrote "Sir Thomas Robinson, Secretary for the Affairs of the provinces," recounting what he had done, and saying some severe things of the Assembly, and the "Quaker preachers and other Political Engines" who had induced the legislature to ignore his suggestions. Under date of "London, Oct. 4, 1755," Thomas Penn wrote Governor Morris, "I approve of your proposal for granting land to such as shall assist to remove the French, as it is what is done by the King in Virginia, and is a proper encouragement for the Proprietors of a Country. \* \* \* We shall send powers for granting this land as soon as they can be drawn up by two conveyances." On April 20, 1756, the Pennsylvania legislature passed an act, "to encourage the settlement of the Pennsylvania territory, made applications to the proprietaries for a tract of land sufficiently extensive and conveniently situated, thereon to erect a company of soldiers, to be employed to accommodate them with reasonable and commodious plantations, the same to be divided according to their several ranks." "Upon their application Order No. 1 was issued, to survey for their use, a tract of land, containing eight hundred of which the officers determined among themselves should be surveyed on Bald Eagle creek, and Captains Hunter, Brady and Piper were selected to see it surveyed. Charles Lukens, a thousand acres, was surveyed on the State which included "the territory watered by Beech and Marsh creeks and the Bald Eagle for six or eight miles above Bellefonte," and therefore, the surveying of the lands flooded the above creek, and he reports the accomplishment of this order on the 30th of March to the 4th of April, 1759. Beginning at Lock Haven and extending to a point almost exactly north of Howard, namely, the line between the farm of Robert P. Confer and that occupied by Arthur Youdes, on the little hill just opposite Mr. Confer's house, twenty tracts were laid out and allotted to as many of the officers, and among these No. 18, lying wholly on the north side of the creek, extending back over the sand ridge a distance of 464 rods and containing 288 acres, was assigned to Lieut. Charles Stewart. Upon the death of Lieut. Stewart, the title to the land was, by a decree of the Orphans' Court of Mifflin county, vested in the eldest son, Charles Stewart, who entered into a recognition securing to his brothers and sisters their shares of the property. By a judgment of the High Sheriff of Mifflin Co., by deed dated April 16, 1801, conveyed the same to David Watts, Esq., who by a declaration of trust dated the 7th day of January, A. D. 1802, recorded in the county, in Book F, page 584, declared that he held the said tract of land in trust for the heirs of the said Lieut. Charles Stewart, \* \* \* by virtue whereof the title became vested in Lazarus Stewart, Margaret D. Stewart, Charles D. Stewart, John Stewart and George Stewart. John and George Stewart died, and by deed of May 14, 1827, John Craighead, the attorney in fact of the remaining heirs, Lazarus, Margaret D., Charles D. and John Stewart, of the said John, all of whom then lived in Virginia, conveyed the same to Christian Bechtel, Henry Pletcher and John Pletcher, farmers of Howard township, as tenants in common, for the sum of \$4,000, cash in hand. This deed, and the receipt for the money are witnessed by Wilson W. Potter and M. D. Gregg, names prominently connected with all the early history of Centre Co., acknowledged before Squire James Rothrock, and recorded by W. Pettit. On the first day of May, 1848, these three men made a division of the tract into three farms, and exchanged deeds by which "for the consideration of one dollar," each became the sole owner of approximately one-third of the tract. Henry Pletcher thus became sole owner of one of these thirds, "containing ninety-seven acres and eight perches and allowance of six per cent. for roads, etc.," and there he made his home and lived and died. This deed was written and acknowledged by Squire Jacob Baker, one of the best known and most respected justices of the peace in the county. He was first elected in 1840, upon the change in the law which made the office elective

instead of appointive, as it had been before, and was re-elected for nine consecutive terms. When Howard was organized as a borough in 1864, he had a portion of a term yet to serve, but supposing that he could not legally serve in the borough, a new election district, the citizens re-elected him, and thus he had the unique distinction of having been elected nine times and holding nine commissions. His last consecutive term expired in 1893, and for seven months, his service having been brought suddenly to an end by his removal to Iowa in 1881. The deed was signed by the makers, Christian Bechtel and John Pletcher, in their native German. Mr. Pletcher died in 1876, leaving no will, but several children, one of whom, Miss Anna, had married Baiser Weber. At the partition of the real estate, Nov. 4, 1879, Mr. Weber bought the interest of the other heirs, and since his death the property has remained in his estate, until recently Mrs. Muffy, the oldest daughter, acquired the title to the whole of it, thus becoming the enviable owner of an estate with invaluable hereditary interest, and as rich in colonial history as perhaps any other in the county.

## AUTO INDUSTRY ENORMOUS.

Business in 1910 is likely to aggregate Total of \$240,000,000. "When one looks backward twelve years ago, when the motor car business was in its infancy, and compares it to the gigantic industry of today, one is fairly staggered by the comparison," says President Benjamin Briscoe, of the United States Motor company. "In 1898 there were but 239 cars made in this country. This year it is conservatively estimated that 200,000 cars will be made at an average cost of \$1,200, making a total retail business of \$240,000,000. There are now approximately 250,000 motor cars in use in America. About 40 per cent. of the 1910 output will be made in the middle west and the combined capitalization of manufacturers is around \$200,000,000 while actual value of plants runs up to extraordinary figures, which fairly take one's breath away when he considers the remarkable strides made by the wonderful industry. "In a general way it can be stated that there are 150,000 employees in the automobile plants against 1,200 in 1898, while the parts makers give employment to 40,000 more. Not even the giant Standard Oil and steel trust can quote figures which will compare with those of the automobile industry—that is, in short, a period of time."

**State College "Thespians."**  
Those who saw "The Thespians," in "Popocatepetl VII" last year will welcome the news that this organization will produce a new musical comedy, novelty entitled "The Gay Southerner" in Bellefonte on Friday, April 1st, at Garman's opera house. Lines, songs, dances, costumes, everything in new. The book is the adaptation by W. F. Foster of his own and "The Thespians" coach and director, Mr. Downing's ideas. The songs are the latest popular ones selected from the most successful shows of the season. The dances are fast beyond all that were attempted last year. The costumes are direct from Tams, of New York, and Van Horn, of Philadelphia, and are being made solely for "The Thespians."

**Hospital Notes.**  
Mrs. Mabel Corman, of Bellefonte, admitted for treatment.  
Mrs. Sara Kahn, of Bellefonte, admitted for treatment.  
Master Hugh Wilson, of Warriors Mark, admitted for treatment of ear.  
William B. Williams, Martha Furnace, admitted for treatment and operation.  
Miss Grayce Witmer, of Bellefonte, operation for appendicitis.  
Mrs. Harriet Ulrich of Penn Hall, operation on face, on Saturday.  
Unless something unforeseen happens the ambulance will be presented to the Hospital on Saturday afternoon at 4 p. m., as an Easter offering. The public is invited.

**A Big Trout Where No Water Flows.**  
Among the half hundred trout put in the big spring by superintendent Rine of the water works a few weeks ago, from the state hatchery, there was a twenty-inch brook trout, which Mr. Ryan discovered a few days ago, ailing from some cause and would show top of its back above water in its swimming. A few mornings ago Lieut. Charles Stewart, upon the death of Lieut. Stewart, the title to the land was, by a decree of the Orphans' Court of Mifflin county, vested in the eldest son, Charles Stewart, who entered into a recognition securing to his brothers and sisters their shares of the property. By a judgment of the High Sheriff of Mifflin Co., by deed dated April 16, 1801, conveyed the same to David Watts, Esq., who by a declaration of trust dated the 7th day of January, A. D. 1802, recorded in the county, in Book F, page 584, declared that he held the said tract of land in trust for the heirs of the said Lieut. Charles Stewart, \* \* \* by virtue whereof the title became vested in Lazarus Stewart, Margaret D. Stewart, Charles D. Stewart, John Stewart and George Stewart. John and George Stewart died, and by deed of May 14, 1827, John Craighead, the attorney in fact of the remaining heirs, Lazarus, Margaret D., Charles D. and John Stewart, of the said John, all of whom then lived in Virginia, conveyed the same to Christian Bechtel, Henry Pletcher and John Pletcher, farmers of Howard township, as tenants in common, for the sum of \$4,000, cash in hand. This deed, and the receipt for the money are witnessed by Wilson W. Potter and M. D. Gregg, names prominently connected with all the early history of Centre Co., acknowledged before Squire James Rothrock, and recorded by W. Pettit. On the first day of May, 1848, these three men made a division of the tract into three farms, and exchanged deeds by which "for the consideration of one dollar," each became the sole owner of approximately one-third of the tract. Henry Pletcher thus became sole owner of one of these thirds, "containing ninety-seven acres and eight perches and allowance of six per cent. for roads, etc.," and there he made his home and lived and died. This deed was written and acknowledged by Squire Jacob Baker, one of the best known and most respected justices of the peace in the county. He was first elected in 1840, upon the change in the law which made the office elective

**Committed Suicide.**  
James L. Fessenden, a popular and successful merchant of Glen Iron, Union county, and one of the most prominent men in that county, committed suicide on Tuesday morning by sending a bullet into his head back of his right ear. The only reason that can be assigned for the act is that the man was temporarily demented. He was prosperous financially and had apparently been enjoying the best of health.

**The Hazel Sale.**  
The sale of M. F. Hazel on Wednesday 16, advertised full list in the Centre Democrat, held on 16th, amounted to a total of \$2500. Horses and other live stock brought fine figures. Five head of horses brought over \$1000, namely: one at \$235; one at \$235; one at \$133; one at \$170 and one at \$150. Thirteen cows brought over \$600—the highest brought \$60; two brood sows, one brought \$47 and the other \$41.

**The Fall Election.**  
The next election will be held in November, when votes will be cast for a governor, lieutenant governor, auditor general, secretary of internal affairs and state treasurer as state officers; congressmen, senators, and state members of the legislature. The uniform primary will be held on June 22nd.

## BELLEFONTE BOY A FAMOUS ARTIST

### LATEST CREATION CAUSES A SENSATION IN PARIS

## GROUP FOR STATE CAPITOL

#### Sculptor George Gray Bernard the Man—Labeled Under Difficulties— Son of Presbyterian Minister—Trou- ble with Capitol Grafters.

The sculptor alluded to in the article below, is a son of a former highly esteemed pastor of the Presbyterian church of Bellefonte, and his father and son will be remembered by our readers in this town. Reports from Paris indicate that in one respect, at least, the State of Pennsylvania is to receive full value for money expended in furnishing its State capitol. George Gray Bernard, who was selected to carve the great groups of statuary that are ultimately to adorn the expensive buildings at Harrisburg, has finished his works and they have been shipped to Paris. Leading French sculptors and members of the Salon art jury have, after close examination, pronounced them masterpiece, such as cannot be found except in the glorious sculptures of the golden ages of Greece and Rome. In breadth and mastery of treatment the groups are such as to arouse a sensation in art-blessed Paris.

That these noble works of Bernard, remarks the "Pittsburg Post," should go toward the adornment of a building in the furnishing of which there has been such a revolting exhibition of grafting and public robbery by politicians furnishes a strange contradiction. The marbles must stand out against the tawdry extravagance of their surroundings and still more their purity in contrast to the wholesale impurity that attended its construction. It is a sad commentary on the work of the capitol builders that this part of the adornment of the structure, by far the noblest, has been so treated. It is a sad commentary on the work of the capitol builders that this part of the adornment of the structure, by far the noblest, has been so treated. It is a sad commentary on the work of the capitol builders that this part of the adornment of the structure, by far the noblest, has been so treated.

**Baseball Meeting.**  
This evening the Bellefonte Baseball Association will meet in the parlor of the Elks home for the purpose of re-organizing the Central Pennsylvania League. Representatives will be present from Huntingdon, Tyrone, Lock Haven, Jersey Shore and Renovo. If the league is organized it will be under the protection of the National League, which will do away with some of the things that created bad feeling last season. A suggestion, no doubt, will be made that each club should secure outside batteries, but confine the rest of the line-up to local players. Each town has an excellent good, hard working boys to make a first class base ball club, and with the league in good shape there is no reason why they should not give a good account of themselves. Whether such suggestions will meet with the approval of all the towns is not known, but one thing is certain that whatever is done the teams will be heartily supported. The probabilities are that Kauffman will play with Bellefonte this summer, who will give a good account of himself.

**Benjamin Wyland Injured.**  
Benjamin F. Wyland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wyland, of Bellefonte, met with an unfortunate accident on Friday, March 11, which consisted in the loss of his left leg three inches above the knee. He also received a wound in the hand, which took twenty-four stitches to sew it up, and was otherwise bruised about the body. Mr. Wyland is a brakeman and the accident happened while shifting cars in the P. R. R. yard at Hollidaysburg. He was taken to the hospital at Altoona where he recovered sufficiently to walk around on crutches.

**Orders Issued.**  
General orders were issued by the Adjutant General's department at Harrisburg, on Friday, for the summer activities of the National Guard. The annual encampment of the National Guard will be held from July 14 to July 23, inclusive, each organization participating in the encampment for a period of eight days. The location of encampment and the dates on which each organization will participate, will be announced in future orders. The camp of instruction to be established at Mount Getto for officers will be from Friday, May 20, to Monday May 23, inclusive. Officers attending will be required to reach the camp not later than Thursday evening, May 19.

**Had Good Sale.**  
At I. V. Brunhart's sale in Miles township, on 17th, his best horse brought \$231; and a heifer, with a 4 weeks' old calf \$60; and, to beat former records in this community, a chesnut-brown sow with eleven one-week old pigs, brought the neat sum of \$75. The sale amounted to nearly \$2000 and he kept one horse, 6 cows and nearly all farming implements. It pays to advertise, he tells the Centre Democrat. Mr. Brunhart moved on the Geo. Smull farm on the 21st, which he purchased.

That it is time now to leave the latch string out for the first robin. 5000 every week—best advertising medium in Centre County—of course that is the Centre Democrat.

## COURT APPOINTMENTS BOROUGH AUDITORS

### THEIR ELECTION THIS SPRING DECLARED VOID

## DOE TO DEFECTIVE BALLOTS

#### Instructions Were not Properly Printed—Unauthorized Changes on Ballot Were Confusing—Other Opinions of Interest.

Upon the petition of twenty-five qualified electors of the borough of Bellefonte, who had voted at the last municipal election, the question was raised in the Court of Quarter Sessions as to the validity of the election of candidates to the office of borough auditor. M. A. Jackson was elected auditor in 1908, and resigned some time during the year 1909. J. H. Robb was appointed auditor by the Court for the unexpired term. This spring the Democrats nominated two candidates for auditor, followed by the Republicans, Wagner Geiss, three years; W. Miles Walker, one year. The Republicans made only one nomination at their primaries and certified their nomination as follows: For borough auditor, John Curtin, without designating any term. When the ballot was printed some one had undertaken to print three years after the name of John Curtin, which designation did not appear upon the certified copy of nomination. This placed three candidates on the ballot, two of whom were designated for three years, and one for one year. The instructions printed at the head of the portion of the ballot as to the names of the candidates was "Mark two." The Court held that the instructions were misleading and insufficient to have a voter, by reason of the fact that many voted for both three year men and one for one year. The instructions printed at the head of the portion of the ballot as to the names of the candidates was "Mark two." The Court held that the instructions were misleading and insufficient to have a voter, by reason of the fact that many voted for both three year men and one for one year. The instructions printed at the head of the portion of the ballot as to the names of the candidates was "Mark two." The Court held that the instructions were misleading and insufficient to have a voter, by reason of the fact that many voted for both three year men and one for one year.

**Insurance Decision.**  
Judge Orvis filed another opinion, refusing a motion for a new trial, in the case of Mollie Miller vs. The Insurance Company of North America. This case was the result of the burning of a barn, a large amount of farming implements and several horses, on the farm of Mollie Miller in Howard township, on the 22nd of December, 1909. The insurance company refused to pay the loss, which resulted in a suit and a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, in the sum of \$1250 for the barn and \$1155 for the personal property, which was insured for \$1250, although the loss was shown before the jury to have been worth from \$2000 to \$2500. This farm was formerly owned by the wife of R. P. Schwartz and several years prior to the issuing of the insurance policy in this case, conveyed it to Mollie Miller. The defense set up in this case was that Mollie Miller, the plaintiff, had conveyed this property to David L. Kerr to secure a loan, \$1,800, the deed reciting this fact and providing for the recovery of the property upon payment of the loan. This, the insurance company alleged was a violation of the sole ownership clause in the policy and it was seriously contended for and was sustained by the jury and on the motion for a new trial before the Court. The evidence, however, showed, and the jury found as a fact, that the insurance company had notice of the condition of the title at the time of its issue, and the Court, in his opinion, refusing the motion for a new trial, held that the insurance company was estopped from making said defense because of the finding of the jury that they had notice of the condition of the title when they issued the policy.

**Road Tax Vote Void.**  
At the same spring election a vote was had in Benner, Howard, Halfmoon and Patton township upon the question of "cash" tax or "work" tax. The instructions on the printed ballots were found to be confusing and indefinite. In the case of Benner township, an appeal was made to the Court, and he declared the election void on account of the defective manner in which the instructions on the ballot were worded. Benner and Howard townships voted for "work" tax, while Halfmoon and Patton voted for "cash" tax as the law provides. Up to this time Howard township has not taken an appeal. This practically leaves the "cash" tax provided by the recent law, in force throughout the county.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES.**  
Budd F. Tate - - - Bellefonte  
Cora M. Garbrick - - - Bellefonte  
Harry Eugene Acker - - - Aaronsburg  
Annie M. Haines - - - Aaronsburg  
Jesse P. Strunk - - - Huntingdon  
Jesse T. Bennett - - - Runville  
James B. Frazier - - - Bellefonte  
Mollie Krapp - - - Bellefonte  
Ezekiel Lucas - - - Curtin  
Myrtle L. Bathurst - - - Curtin  
Paul Fortney Muser - - - State College  
Laura Sunday - - - Pine Grove Mills

**In Bankruptcy.**  
Hosterman & Mingie, who were in the restaurant business at State College, and Roy D. Hanzel, merchant at Pinedler, have filed petitions in bankruptcy. —Go to Garman's opera house on Tuesday night and see a good show.

## METHODIST APPOINTMENTS.

### At the Methodist conference, in session at York, Pa., the following appointments for this section were announced on Tuesday:

**Altoona District.**  
District superintendent, Benjamin C. Conner.  
Allegheny—David J. Frum (supply).  
Altoona—East, Gordon Gray; Chestnut avenue, Simpson B. Evans; Epworth and Lilywen—Robert B. Foster; Fairview, Harry J. Schuchart; Fifth avenue, Alexander Lamberson; First church, Horace L. Jacobs; Italian mission, Joseph Paciarelli; Juniata, Chas. T. Dunning; Simpson, Henry A. Straub; Walnut avenue, Joseph K. Kinchey.  
Bakerton—Elbert V. Brown.  
Barnesboro—George L. Comp.  
Bellefonte—Thomas S. Wilcox.  
Bellwood—Edwin H. Wittman.  
Blainsburg—William F. Bragonier (supply).  
Burnside and Glen Campbell—Hugh Strain.  
Centre and Sandy Ridge—William F. Gilbert.  
Clearfield, Trinity, Morris E. Swartz; Elmington—E. Elmer Mckelvey.  
Ely, Bert A. Salter; Circuit, William B. Cook, Jr. (supply).  
Coalport and Irwona—William L. Armstrong.  
Curtinville—Joseph H. Price.  
Flemington—E. Elmer Mckelvey.  
Glen Hope—Elmer F. Igenfritz.  
Half Moon—Abraham L. Frank.  
Hastings—William C. Wallace.  
Houtzdale—Andrew P. Wharton.  
Howard—Rollin S. Taylor.  
Lumber City—Daniel A. Ertle (supply).  
Lumber City—James E. Dunning.  
Mahafey—Charles H. Campbell.  
Milesburg and Unionville—Richard S. Oiler.  
Mills Hill—Joseph E. Breneman.  
Moradale—William A. Carver.  
Munson—Jacob H. Diebel.  
New Millport—Charles A. Biddle.  
Osceola Mills—Edward E. A. Deavor.  
Patton—John H. Mortimer.  
Penn's Valley—J. Max Lantz.  
Phillipsburg—Samuel D. Wilson.  
Pleasant Gap—David A. Sower, Jr.  
Port Matilda—Merrill H. Ake.  
Ramey—Franklin E. Hartman.  
Salona and Lamar—Michael B. Bubb.  
Shawville—Omer B. Paulson.  
Shippensburg—R. Frank Rich.  
State College—James M. McKelvey.  
Wallacetown—Geo. M. Frowmelter.  
Woodland and Bradford—Nathan B. Smith.  
Samuel Blair, superintendent of the New Mexico English mission, Albuquerque, N. M. Superannuated; Geo. B. Ague, David F. Kapp, William A. Stephens, Lewis A. Rudisill.

## COUNCIL MEETING.

Monday evening the Bellefonte Borough Council convened and signed the contract for the paving of the street through the borough. The most important subject for discussion along this line was the paving of Allegheny street from Parrish's drug store to Bishop street. In the centre of the street will be a strip of pavement 16 feet wide, and according to the contract the State pays 75 per cent. and the Borough and the County each pay 12 1-2 per cent. respectively. In addition to this, by vote of council the Borough also pays one-third of the cost of paving from the State road to the curb, and the property owners two-thirds. Dr. Kirk held that the property owners should be compelled to pay the full one-third of the entire width of the street because the improvement would enhance the value of their properties. His suggestion was overruled and the contract signed. Over two-thirds of the property owners along the thoroughfare signed a petition to their proportionate cost of the paving. This contract must be signed by the State Road Commissioner, Hunter, the Borough Councilman, and the County Engineer, and things are in shape for contractor Bert Taylor to go ahead and build the road. The street is 47 feet wide; the state paves 16 feet in the centre of which the borough pays for one-eighth or 2 feet. Of the remaining 21 feet the borough pays its one-third or 10 1-2. In cities where there is no state road the city pays one-third and the property owners each one-third. Under this universal custom of street paving the borough and the property owners each would pay for 15 2-3 feet. Under present arrangement the property owner pays only for 10 1-3 feet. Dr. Kirk held that the benefit of the state road should be credited to the borough, and to property owners along this route.

**The Allegheny County Bribery.**  
In all, the two Allegheny county officials are said to have received more than sixty callers, and of these, thirty-eight are said to have confessed to complicity in the councilman's bribery frauds. Every man who made a confession was ordered to appear before the grand jury, and those who held back were told to "think it over," as the evidence was given by former Councilman John F. Klein, who started the public with his confession, is said to be absolutely conclusive. According to these confessions, in some cases as little as \$400 was received to be divided among several councilmen, while in the city deposits of ordinance cases \$10,000 was divided and contributed by six banks. Four bribe favors were given in the form of gambling house and illegal resort privileges, the councilmen being given the right to open up these resorts, collect for the "policies," and having the resorts remain open without molestation from the police.

**Will Rebuild.**  
The A. M. E. congregation of this place, whose church was totally destroyed by fire a short time ago, contemplate rebuilding during the coming summer. They will use the same site upon which the old church stood. The plot belongs to the Thomas estate and was deeded by the colored church so long as the members used it for their worship. At present they worship in the Salvation Army hall, which has generously been tendered them by that organization.

## STINGING REBUKE FROM MASSACHUSETTS

### BIG POLITICAL REVOLUTION IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

## THE ISSUE FOUGHT ON TARIFF

#### District Never Before Was Democrat- ic—Republicans Badly Defeated— Blow to Party—People are Dissatis- fied—Causes Sensation.

In the first election of a member of Congress in Massachusetts since the passage of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill the Democrats on Tuesday carried the Fourteenth District, which had never before chosen a Democrat. The vote:  
Eugene N. Foss, Dem., of Boston 14,980  
W. R. Buchanan, Rep., of Brockton 9,340  
Foss's plurality 5,640  
In 1905 the vote was: W. C. Lovering, Rep., 20,959; E. L. Packard, Dem., 6,709; C. P. Drew, Ind. League, 1,855, and G. J. Alcott, Soc., 1,851; Lovering's plurality, 14,258.

The first election since the new tariff went into effect was in the Sixth Missouri District, Feb. 1, where a Democrat was elected by the biggest plurality ever given in the district. Lowering the majority, on the Republican ticket, in 1908, was 14,250. The district on Tuesday turned itself upside down to rebuke the national administration and majority in Congress. The issue was plain—did the Republican party fulfill its campaign promise for tariff revision downward in the Aldrich act? Mr. Foss, who has been called "Free Raw Materials Foss," made his fight on that.

The defeated candidate, William R. Buchanan, said: "If the result will serve to convince the Republican leaders at Washington that something must be speedily accomplished in the way of lowering the cost of living, I shall feel that my defeat has not been without value." Two things are significant in the avalanche. First, Mr. Foss made his campaign on the tariff and a pledge to join the insurgents and Democrats in Congress in an attempt to force action on this session, and the Republican pledge for revision downward.

In the second place, the repudiation of high tariff, on the heels of President Taft's speech at Providence on Monday night, in which he upheld the Aldrich act and praised its author, comes as a convincing reply to Mr. Taft. The voters of highly protected Massachusetts have not been fooled by the President's oft-repeated plea that the Aldrich law was revision downward. It was the most overwhelming defeat that the Republicans have met in Massachusetts since Governor Bates was overthrown by William Brewster, six years ago. The district had never before gone Democratic.

It was the first contest to be decided by the voters since the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill became operative, and the cost of living was discussed. The Democratic campaigners charged the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill and the failure of the Republican party to properly supervise the trusts, with being mainly responsible for the high cost of living.

Mr. Foss, in a statement declared the result of the election showed "a demand by the people that the Republican party fulfill its pledge for a honest reduction of the tariff." "It is a demand for the immediate repeal of Section 2 of the Payne-Aldrich act, which substitutes retaliation for reciprocity, and threatens commercial warfare with our best customers," he continued.

**Large Railroad Yards.**  
As frequently noted, Thomas A. Shoemaker has a steam shovel and a large gang of men employed in loading and unloading 18,000 cubic yards of slag at the Bellefonte Furnace. Some of our people have been wondering how such a large quantity of material can be used in one place. These classification yards will be the largest and the most complete in the United States. The work was started last July by contractors Eyre & Shoemaker, and by December it is expected it will be completed. At the present time between 2,500 and 2,500 men are employed, showing the magnitude of the construction. It is necessary to remove 4,000,000 cubic yards of dirt. But little rock has been encountered. The construction work also involves 18,000 cubic yards of bridge and culvert masonry, the change in location of a public road one and one-half miles long.

The yard, which will cost, when completed, in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000, will be three miles long, one-half mile wide, changing a flat and wooded district into one great level plain of steel rail and yard equipment. The yard is eighty and 100 tracks wide, of which it contains eighty miles, the total area covered being about 700 acres. It will contain a yard house with storage for 100 locomotives, storage room for 150 cabins, a coaling station with a capacity of 1000 tons a day, a freight transfer shed 30 by 600 feet, car repair shops, a power plant for furnishing light and air for operating switches and testing trains, standing capacity for 5500 cars and receiving, classification and departure yards. The following points of superiority over all the other yards in the United States are noted: Arranging engines without turning; freight classification and advance yard, keeping the cars steadily in motion; arrangements whereby cars going in opposite directions may be turned so as to be placed on receiving tracks going in correct direction.