

The Centre Democrat.

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BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1911.

Vol. 34, No. 5.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN CENTRE COUNTY

Held at Pleasant Gap, Unionville and Eagleville.

PROGRAM FOR EACH SESSION

Corps of Able Speakers Will Attend—Interesting Topics Will Be Discussed—Local Committees—Everybody Invited—No Admission Fee.

Three Farmers' Institutes will be held in Centre County under the auspices of Department of Agriculture for Pennsylvania as follows:

Pleasant Gap, on Monday and Tuesday, February 20th and 21st.
Unionville, Wednesday and Thursday, February 22nd and 23rd.
Eagleville, Friday and Saturday, February 24th and 25th.

The following State speakers will attend each session: Prof. Franklin Menges, of York, Pa.; Miss Sara C. Lovejoy, of State College, Pa.; Leon Otis Van Noy, of Troy, Pa.; and D. H. Watts, of Kermoo, Pa.

Pleasant Gap—February 20th and 21st.
Monday Afternoon—Opening Exercises, "Farming vs. Other Occupations," by Mr. Van Noy. "Methods of Raising Hay," by Prof. Menges.

Monday Evening—Music. Query Box. "Starting a Farm," by Mr. Van Noy. "Methods of Wheat Raising," by Prof. Menges.

Tuesday Morning—Query Box. "Benefits of Corn Breeding," by Prof. Menges. "The Silo," by Mr. Van Noy. "Building Up a Dairy Herd for Profit," by Mr. Watts.

Tuesday Afternoon—Query Box. "Alfalfa in Pennsylvania," by Mr. Watts. "Lime and Its Uses," by Prof. M. S. McDowell. "Maintenance of Soil Fertility," by Prof. Menges.

Tuesday Evening—Query Box. "Methods and Management in the Apple Orchard," by Mr. Watts. "Present Day Needs of the Housekeeper," by Miss Lovejoy.

Local Committee: Albert Smeltzer, Advertising; W. H. Noll, Hall; E. Swartz, Music; H. N. Twitmore, Music; and John D. Leiby, Secretary.

Unionville—February 22nd and 23rd.
Wednesday Afternoon—Opening Exercises. "Methods for Introducing Clovers into Rotations," by Prof. Menges. "Alfalfa in Pennsylvania," by Mr. Watts.

Wednesday Evening—Query Box. "Farming vs. Other Occupations," by Mr. Van Noy. "How to Feed and Care for the Herd," by Mr. Watts. "Economy in Crop Production for Food, Humus and Fertility," by Prof. Menges.

Thursday Morning—Query Box. "How Corporations Look at the Farmer," by Mr. Van Noy. "Necessity of Education for the Farmer," by Prof. Menges. "Methods and Management in the Apple Orchard," by Mr. Watts.

Thursday Afternoon—Query Box. "The Silo," by Mr. Van Noy. "A Talk on Food," by Miss Lovejoy. "Our Education," by Mr. Watts.

Thursday Evening—Query Box. "Present Day Needs of the Housekeeper," by Miss Lovejoy. "Domestic Chemistry in the Public Schools," by Prof. Menges.

Local Committee: Owen Underwood, Advertising; B. F. Peters, Hall; H. M. Miles, Music; S. S. Emerick, Literary; and Joseph Brugger, entertainment.

Eagleville—February 24th and 25th.
Friday Afternoon—Opening Exercises by Rev. W. H. Patterson. "Alfalfa in Pennsylvania," by Mr. Watts. "Social Organizations Among Farmers," by Miss Lovejoy.

Friday Evening—Query Box. "Maintenance of Soil Fertility and Soil Moisture," by Prof. Menges. "Present Day Needs of the Housekeeper," by Miss Lovejoy.

Saturday Morning—Query Box. "Farming vs. Other Occupations," by Mr. Van Noy. "Starting an Apple Orchard," by Mr. Watts.

Saturday Afternoon—Query Box. "Methods of Wheat Raising," by Prof. Menges. "Farm Buildings and Blunders," by Mr. Watts. "The Dairy Cow," by Mr. Van Noy.

Saturday Evening—Query Box. "How Corporations Look at the Farmer," by Mr. Van Noy. "Necessity of Education for the Farmer," by Prof. Menges.

Local Committee: J. A. Bitner, Entertainment; Thomas J. Bechdel, Hall; Edgar T. Bechdel, Advertising; George Peters, Decorations; and Joseph Fletcher, Music.

Although these Institutes are designated for the education of farmers, all are invited to attend, particularly the ladies and members of organizations of farmers. The door will be wide open and admission free. Come and help.

Board of County Managers: John A. Woodward, of Howard; W. F. Reynolds, of Bellefonte, and Willard Dale, of Dales Summit.

Hospital Notes.

Operations: Mrs. Lewis Miller, of Bellefonte; Mary Hoy, of Waddle, appendicitis; Mrs. Eliza Stanley, of Milesburg, right eye removed; Lulu Shirk, of Bellefonte, appendicitis; Curtin Dunkleberger, of Pleasant Gap, abscess of leg; Mrs. Janet Swopes, of Tyrone.

Entered for treatment: J. A. Osman, of Centre Hall; Mrs. Belle Darr, of Coleville, needle in body.

Discharged: Daniel Shuey, Pleasant Gap; Bessie Brown, of Milesburg; James Haines, of Howard; Grant Holderman, of Bellefonte; Misses Gerginski and Wetzel, nurses, have reported for duty.

Application for nurses in training school are wanted.

Mrs. Annie Whippo and Lulu Shirk, both of Bellefonte, were admitted for treatment on Wednesday.

Beulah Bryan, of Milesburg discharged on Wednesday.

Miss Laura Belts, the superintendent, is improving from her recent operation and her condition is favorable.

Wm. Bortoff, operated on for appendicitis, expects to leave the institution the latter part of the week.

PEDDLER KILLED.

Struck by 8:16 Train, Near Bellefonte on Saturday Night.

Ramey Bopierre, a French-Canadian peddler, known perhaps all over Central Pennsylvania, was struck and instantly killed by the 8:16 train on Saturday night. The accident occurred near the curve opposite the fairgrounds. The man had evidently been sitting on the track, perhaps asleep, as the whistle and headlight of the approaching locomotive would have been sufficient warning for any person walking on the tracks to have gotten out of danger. As soon as the train crew realized what had happened the train was stopped and the body of the unfortunate man put on board and brought to Bellefonte. Coroner Huff was summoned, and the county coroners notified, who directed Undertaker Harris to remove the body to his establishment on Howard street and prepare it for burial. Inquest was made on Tuesday afternoon in the Union cemetery.

Bopierre, as he was known to the police, was a character who frequented visited Bellefonte as a peddler of notions. Perhaps for fifteen years or more he made periodical visits here, and invariably kept the police busy. Just the morning of the day he was killed he had been released from the borough lockup by Chief of Police Dukeman, and sent out of town. He was a man of over six feet in stature, and powerfully built. He may not have been a quarrelsome man, but when aroused he generally handled himself to advantage. He was about 50 years of age and, so far as known, had no relatives in the United States. Five cents in money, a razor on which was the name John J. Latheron, and some notions were all that were found on the body.

TRIAL LIST.

The following cases have been set down for trial at the next term of court commencing Monday, February 27th, 1911.

First Week.

J. R. Lucas vs J. W. Wagner.
M. D. Johnsonbaugh vs M. S. Betz and Gabriel Betz.
Seafrost Brothers vs Isaac Finberg, Ernest Levy vs Foster Weaver, Henry Lowry vs Louisa Lane, John Snavely vs L. M. Royer, John McCartney vs Kelley Bros.

Second Week.

Clement Dale, executor of A. W. Stuber, dec'd, vs J. W. Bruss, and Wm. Bruss.
James D. Seibert vs J. H. Lingle, Isalah, J. S. Pifer and James D. Steele vs M. D. Kelley and H. P. Kelley and Matthew Shadeck and Samuel Emerick.
M. D. Flanagan vs James A. Flanagan, admr.
Mary Kauffman (formerly Mendleman) vs Celia Mirbach and Henry Mirbach.
F. E. Condit vs Jno W. Ward et al.
M. D. Johnsonbaugh vs M. S. Betz and Samuel Long Estate et al.
The School District of Gregg Township vs Samuel Long Estate et al.
George Stott vs Henry Kline.
Morris Bohm vs College Township.
D. O. Downing vs Safety Surety Fire Ins. Co. of Lebanon.
Summit Clay Manufacturing Co. vs Teutonia Fire Insurance Company of Allegheny.
Com. of Penna. vs Jeremiah Aumiller and Manasseh Aumiller.
W. D. Zerby, Trustee of the estate of Irvin G. Gray, Bankrupt vs Saint Paul Fire and Marine Ins. Co. of St. Paul, Minn., a corporation.
W. D. Zerby, Trustee of the estate of Irvin G. Gray, Bankrupt vs The Niagara Insurance Company, of New York, N. Y., a corporation.
W. D. Zerby, Trustee of the estate of Irvin G. Gray, Bankrupt vs Aetna Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., a corporation.
William S. Hammond vs William Groh Runkle.
C. A. Weaver vs The Coburn Grain and Creamery Co., limited partnership.
D. W. Garner vs Henry A. Garner, admr. of William Garner, dec'd.
W. S. Gilliland and J. S. Briel, Trustees vs Administrators of J. H. Holt, deceased.

The Bridge Was All Right.

On Saturday we had a call from Supervisor J. L. Alkens, of Boggs twp., who was not altogether pleased with the report of the recent automobile accident down at that place. He says the papers stated that the bridge over the creek at that place was only 11 feet wide, and this he insists is incorrect, as it is 14 feet clear. He says that from an examination of the road, Mr. Bartley's car left the road 70 feet before it reached the bridge and evidently was beyond his control when it struck the bridge. Mr. Alkens is entitled to this statement and the Centre Democrat gladly makes it for him. Our account of the accident came from hearsay reports.

Accused of Mail Theft.

Harry M. Black, mail clerk in the Lewisburg Post Office, waived a hearing before United States Commissioner Rudy on a charge of embezzlement from the mails.

Letters and money have been missing from the Mifflin County mails. Suspicion was directed toward Black, who had been in the office ten years, and he was caught by means of a decoy letter. He confessed, but no statement is made of the amount involved.

Pending bail he is lodged in the Huntingdon County jail until the February Federal Court, at Scranton.

New Depot at Altoona.

It is rumored the Pennsylvania Railroad contemplates in the near future erecting a new station at Altoona, to better accommodate an increasing passenger traffic. It has within the past few months purchased property in the vicinity of the present station, and it is the belief it was secured for this purpose.

Great Victory at Football.

From Tyrone Herald: Three Bellefonte fellows, two Tyrone and one Altoona scrapper got together on North Pennsylvania avenue on Wednesday night and according to reports the Blair county chaps got cleaned up in bad style.

Lewis and Connelly

TWO FAMOUS ROBBERS WHO SPREAD TERROR THROUGHOUT CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA ALMOST A FULL CENTURY AGO

Lewis' Complete Confession and Autobiography

This week we give the third installment of the confession of Lewis the Robber and Counterfeiter, as made by him while a prisoner in the Centre County jail where he died in 1820 from wounds received while attempting to elude arrest. In the preceding chapters were given that part of his history where he deserted from the army and was imprisoned in the jail at Carlisle, Pa., and made good his escape. He came back to pay his mother in Centre County a visit and then went to Burlington, Vt., where he joined a band of counterfeiters. He was arrested and put in jail. This time he made good his escape by falling in love with a young lady who aided him and they made good their escape. They were married and went to New York where he went to house-keeping and soon became associated with a band of robbers.

(Continued from last issue.)

LEWIS' CONFESSION.

Start For New York.

But to return to my story, shortly after breakfast, I set out again on foot, accompanied by my wife, for the city of New York; which from its crowded population, and extensive mercantile enterprises, I expected would afford me a more secure hiding place from pursuit and a more profitable theatre for my schemes and plots. After walking for about five miles through the fields, and cowpats in the woods, I consulted with Melinda and we both concluded upon returning to the great road with the expectation of meeting with some Yankee wagoner with which every part of the country at that time abounded and to procure from its owner a conveyance for my wife, who was not able to travel far on foot, or undergo the fatigue of a long journey in the distressing state in which her feet were, on account of blisters. Besides I discovered, that in coming from Troy to Albany we had traveled three times the real distance, owing to our pursuit a circuitous route to avoid pursuit and apprehension; luckily we had not gone without much information, he possessed; after gaining his confidence, I was very near exchanging with him some of my Burlington notes, when all at once he suddenly declined the bargain; but what occasioned this unexpected change of mind whether he began to entertain suspicions of me, or had some other reason, I could not learn. During our conversation, I recollected he disapproved me from going to any part of the New England States, alleging that the Yankees had sharpened enough of their own armor but few injuries occurred to a Scotchman, a Jew or any person south of Connecticut who ever made out to thrive, or do well by removing to any part of that country. He then advised me strongly to remove to Pennsylvania, where a great portion of the population were credulous, ignorant, unsuspecting and easy to be imposed upon. He laughed immediately when he told me that his traveling brethren made out better in that state than any other in the Union, and diverted me exceedingly by repeating the many tricks and various schemes of cunning practiced by them upon the unwary, adding that among themselves they called it "littering Germany," when their plans succeeded and their trick escaped detection.

Fleeing Penna Germans.

After journeying for some days we at length landed at New York about dusk, and took up our lodgings for the night at the New England Hotel, the usual place for Yankee cartmen. The next day I procured a room in a small house upon an alley that leads into Peale street, the great resort of merchants and which from its narrowness, and expulsive business, afforded as I thought, better opportunities for my trade than any other. I had not long remained in New York before in my midnight rambles through the city I formed an acquaintance with several of the same principles, habits and characters as my own. Our views coinciding, the acquaintance soon grew into intimacy, and after a few interviews a week had not elapsed before we exchanged the oath of fidelity and secrecy, and entered into firm articles of predatory partnership. The names of my associates I think it unnecessary and improper to divulge. Some have paid the debt of nature, others are now suffering for their crimes in the penitentiary, and two of them have lately discovered such evidence of reformation by abandoning their former practices, and pursuing an honest and industrious course of life, and I am of the opinion that disclosure might do society no good and them much harm.

While my mind is suffering all the torments of despair and my body languishes with pain on the bed of sickness, perhaps of death, it is impossible for me to recollect at this time, much less to recount the many adventures, thefts and burglaries that were committed and practiced by me, and the rest of the gang during my continuance in this place.

I look back upon the scenes with horror, and when I reflect on the many tricks and stratagems we adopted to deceive the city watch, and the various schemes we successfully managed to use of to overreach and elude the police and vigilance of that great metropolis, I detest myself and abhor my own conduct as much as my greatest enemy can do.

The success of our Pearl street establishment exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The carelessness of domestic servants and shopboys in securing the doors and windows of dwelling houses and stores; the improper practice of keeping front doors unlocked during the night; the performance at the Theatre, the neglig-

Worked the Theatres.

ent manner in which the watchmen performed their duties, more of whom we found asleep than awake, and some of them not unfrequently parading the streets in a state of inebriety, were propitious circumstances in affording facilities to our midnight operations—the theatre, the battery, the auction room, hotels, taverns, boarding houses and the wharves, were the principal places which we haunted with most success, and we often worked and visited in several great advantage as they were, and at late hours of the night.

When, after a night thus spent I had returned to my room before daylight had made its appearance, and found Melinda enjoying that undisturbed repose which tranquillity of mind and innocence of conduct can only procure, I have again and again repented of my misdeeds and resolved to myself, that I would henceforth cease to do evil, and learn to do well. But all my resolutions were short lived, and one of the hardest fallacious however as they were, my delusion was pleasing; for as long as they lasted they operated for the time like a weak opiate on my bewildered senses and throwing myself on the same bed by my sleeping wife, exhausted as I were, was somewhat restored to an uneasy sleep, disturbed by terrible dreams, which represented to my disordered and feverish imagination the scenes of plunder and danger in which I had lately been engaged.

The association which I had formed in New York was governed by certain rules and regulations, and to make them more binding and appear more solemn they were written on parchment in ink of blood drawn from our veins, while we knelt in a ring or circle with our hands mutually clasping each other, and one of the hard standing in the center with a basin to receive the red fluid of life. Accordingly

A Complete Organization.

to one of the articles the fruits of our joint spoils were to be divided among us at stated periods—and for this purpose we proceeded with all the solemnity of a religious ceremony, a president, directors, cashier, teller and clerk, and so particular were we providing against deception that one of the rules prohibited, under penalty of expulsion any member of the company from being concerned in burning any of the houses, or entering any of the entries. The depository of our plunder was denominated in a vault, and committees of examination were regularly appointed to inspect its contents, and report to the company at a general meeting. A dividend was decreed every Sunday night just as the cock crows the midnight hour. On one of these periodical settlements a disturbance of singular nature took place that disgusted me a good deal with the fraternity, and occasioned my abrupt separation from them. It was like this. During the previous week, attended the "reading auction room," on Broadway, and had been very successful in picking up and concealing the velvet reticule of a lady who had made considerable purchases of some rare and expensive articles of female ornaments and dresses principally French manufactures, such as Brussels lace and jewelry. I had taken my stand on the opposite side of the street, and lounged about until eleven o'clock, when a handsome equipage stopped, and I saw a lady descend and enter the room. I immediately recognized her to be the wife of John Jacob Astor, esq., one of the richest merchants in the city, and who report said, was very liberal in presents of money to supply Madam's pin-money establishment; I soon crossed over, and dressed like a "gentleman in dress dandy style," the sure passport of admittance into the female society, entered the auction room and saluted the ladies with all the graceful ease of an old acquaintance. The experienced salesman, knowing that the best plan for picking a lady's purse was to dazzle her eyes soon exhibited to view of his fair customers the finest lace and the most elegant jewelry that the workshops of France

ever produced. The sale commenced, and before many minutes had passed away, I saw Mrs. Astor pack into her velvet bag several pieces of lace and as many ornaments of jewelry as might suffice to decorate at least half a dozen of brides. After she had completed her purchases she carelessly threw her reticule on a bench in a remote corner of the room, and I immediately opened a brisk conversation with the surrounding group of male and female companions, who buzzed around her and vied with one another for volubility and nonsense. The

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DEATH OF JOHN A. DALEY.

A Prominent Citizen of Curtin Township.

(From our Howard Correspondent.)

After a long and painful illness—cancer in the face—and a most courageous and manly fight for his life, John A. Daley "crossed the bar" at half past five o'clock last Saturday morning. Notwithstanding it was widely known that his terrible malady must soon gain the victory, his passing away came as a shock to even his nearest neighbors. Mr. Daley was born in Springs township, April 19, 1842, when his father, Jeremiah Daley, was in the employ of Valentine and Thomas, having located at that point immediately upon his arrival from County Donegal, Ireland, in 1830. Two years after his arrival he sent for Isabella Mungen, the sweetheart he had left in Donegal, who came with his old time friend John Love, and they were at once married. Mrs. Daley's life was a brief one, dying at twenty-eight years of age, leaving but two children, of whom the younger, John A., is the subject of this obituary; the other, a daughter, died some years ago. In 1852, when the boy John was ten years of age, Jeremiah Daley moved to the farm in Curtin township on which John A. has lived ever since, and on which he died. He worked up-



John A. Daley.

on the farm, attending the neighboring school during the winter months, after the manner of most farm boys in those days, until the outbreak of the war, when, at the age of 19, he promptly entered the service as a private in Co. A, 45th P. V. I. under the command of Capt. John I. Curtin, who as General Curtin, was buried but a few weeks ago. Gen. Curtin entertained a very high regard for his soldier, and visited him several times during his illness. At the close of his term of service he re-enlisted and at the close of the war he was mustered out with an honorable discharge and the rank of sergeant. He was wounded three times. His flesh was lacerated at Scotch Mountain, and in the left side at Cold Harbor, which detained him in a hospital nearly four months. He then rejoined his regiment, and two days later received an ounce ball in his right hip, which remained there until his death. He had participated in twenty-eight battles, among which were such conspicuous ones as South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Vicksburg. On Christmas Day, 1867, Mr. Daley married Mary J., the oldest daughter of John and Rachel Haines, of Liberty township, and took up his home on the old farm—his father having died in 1866—in which she still lives to mourn him, and in that home she has borne him ten children, four of whom have died: Jeremiah, who was a clerk in the Pension Office at Washington, and was killed in the present war disaster, June 8, 1892; William H., who died of typhoid fever in Washington, in 1889; James, who died at home, and baby Nellie. The children who survive him are: Charles C., still at home; R. C., of Tyrone; Mary B., wife of Wm. Hevery, at Curtin; Frank A., married, and living on the old farm of his father and grandfather; Anna L., wife of H. I. Yearick, of Ridgeway; and S. Maud, still at home. Mr. Daley was one of the best known men in the community; very active, always stirring about, and full of life and energy, talking with everyone he met, whether he knew him or not, kindly disposed, helpful at all times and to all who needed help, he was as popular as he was well known, and will be missed almost as much in public places as by his own friends. In religion he was a member of the River Brethren of Dunkards; in politics he was a Republican, and was honored by election to several of the local offices, serving, at the time of his death, as president of the school board. He had a fertile mind, a good vocabulary, and a fluent tongue, and was always ready with a speech upon any occasion where speaking was in order. His influence in his neighborhood was by no means small, and largely for good. His place in the world was of his own making; he filled it well and will long be missed from it. His life was peaceful and painless, and his last days were made particularly pleasant for him by the presence at his bedside of two of his boyhood friends, Mrs. Mary Gill, of Philadelphia, and J. J. Kelly, of Boggs township. The funeral was an impressive large one, many parts of the county being represented. The pall-bearers who were chosen from the grange and the board of school directors, of both of which he was a member, were: Jas. Nyman, R. J. Mann, J. E. Yeager, J. Howard Tipton, Wm. Cox and William McCloskey. The services were held in the Disciple church at Romoia, and the house was packed. Service was conducted by the Rev. Frank Long, of Salona, assisted by Rev. W. H. Pattison, of Eagleville. A detail from Co. L, of Bellefonte, fired the salute, so dear to every soldier, over his grave; the names of those in the firing squad being, Lieut. W. H. Brown; privates Satorfi, Wm. Wilson,

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EFFORT TO RESTORE AN ANCIENT HIGHWAY

CROSSING THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS TO PHILIPSBURG.

SOME INTERESTING HISTORY

Connects the North Western Part of Our State With the East—Built in 1825 by State Aid—Used by Commodore Perry.

Public spirited citizens, business men and civic organizations in SurBois, Clearfield, Philipsburg and surrounding territory have taken the initiatory steps in a general movement to have the old state road between Port Matilda and Philipsburg restored. This is a stretch of about 12 miles, and wholly in Centre county, and is the connecting highway across the Allegheny mountains.

The movement originated among citizens of SurBois who succeeded in interesting Clearfield and Philipsburg people, and on Tuesday they sent Mr. H. S. McMinn, of DuBois, to Bellefonte to arouse our people in the project. It is claimed that those living in that vast area, the northwestern part of the middle and eastern can only reach the middle and eastern can only Pennsylvania by traveling over this long neglected turnpike, or else must take a long circuitous route instead, to reach their destination.

For many years this old turnpike has been neglected, and now is almost in impassable condition, and the district through which it passes is so sparsely settled that there are no available means of raising the necessary funds to restore and maintain it in proper condition.

As it is a necessary connecting link of more than local interest the citizens in the northwestern part of the state maintain that it is of state-wide importance, and for that reason insist that the Legislature should appropriate the necessary funds to restore this highway. For that reason a strong petition was circulated, and was generally signed by our people. This will be presented to the Legislature by a committee of prominent citizens from the different sections of the state.

A HISTORIC HIGHWAY.

Mr. McMinn furnished us with the following sketch of this important, and now abandoned turnpike:

The all important question agitating the public mind to-day is the bettering of public roads throughout the state. Their manner of location, construction and maintenance in the past, as every one knows who has made a study of the subject is, that a scientific application has not been commensurate with the development and progress in other modes of transportation, travel, and in other demands of trade and intercourse in all the affairs of our social fabric. In the uplift of a prosperous and happy people, the old system remains, when the fact is well known that a country of good roads is an index of advanced civilization of an intelligent people, and vice versa. The time has come when that condition in our very midst, to bring about the change is not only the duty but the demand of our citizens to keep pace with the advanced factors already at work and offered for our use.

What may at first sight appear like large expenditures of money to bring this about for permanent improvement, let these sums be compared with the annual expenditure of no less than six million dollars, practically expended by the present system of road maintenance, which, since its inception, expended on properly constructed roads would produce startling effects.

Of the great arteries of travel that have been a highway of importance for over a century, passing through our midst, of old the leading way to the present day, and in the present day, now deteriorated and almost abandoned, since passing from incorporated holdings to that of township control, which, owing to the sparse settlement and poverty of this barren section, is unable to maintain its roads properly, the section of public highway leading over the mountains between the Bald Eagle Valley on the east, in Centre county and the Moshannon on the west, that forms the border of Clearfield County, a distance of twelve miles between the towns of Port Matilda and Philipsburg, is the shortest distance by the present highway between these points. The mountain range in its northeast and southwest trend forms a great barrier diagonally across the state separating the south-east from the north-west, and feasible divisions which, in this point is central, the narrowest and lowest summit intermediate on this route between the two points named, in distance six miles, the elevation is a thousand feet above the base of the eastern slope and six hundred feet above the Moshannon at Philipsburg.

The advantages of this pass were recognized at the earliest times in the history of our state. Following the last purchase from the Indians, in 1784, and following, on the opening the lands for settlement this route was selected as the most direct and feasible way of reaching this vast territory by a state road, and in 1794, this was accomplished, it became the great thoroughfare for the vast number of emigrants that found homes in this, then far off country. These early pioneers cleared the forest, tilled the soil, endured untold privations that few of us to day can realize, and they have left a posterity who have continued to develop the rich natural resources, grown in wealth and today represent the commonwealth and nation as its most highly honored citizens.

When the spirit of the people was seized with a desire for better roads the old state road gave way to the new system of turnpikes, which offered so great an improvement for the transportation of freight and more rapid transit that they were hailed with delight, even though their privileges were oft enjoyed at exorbitant charges, yet there were but few cases

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