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STATE TO ABOLISH OUR PENITENTIARIES

LARGE FARM AND OPEN AIR WORK INSTEAD.

MAY LOCATE IN THIS COUNTY

Approved by the Legislature and Governor Will Sign Bill—Our Penitentiaries a Disgrace to the State—Change Needed.

One of the most important measures before the present session of the legislature is known as the "Alter Bill" that now is attracting attention, and is of peculiar interest to the people of Centre county. A move is on foot to have the Western Penitentiary abolished and moved to a new location, and when that is accomplished there is a possibility that the Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia would be discontinued, and in the future there would be but one large penal institution. In the opinion of the bill passing, and it has had the favorable consideration of the legislature, we are assured that Governor Tener will sign it. The next important step would be the appointment of a commission to select a suitable location in favor of the outdoor treatment of crime, which would raze the walls of our present penitentiaries and send forth the convict to till the field or give him some other form of open air employment that would banish tuberculosis and insanity from his cramped sphere.

In a recent magazine article the State of Pennsylvania was unfortunately singled out as an example of a commonwealth in which society prescribed for the convict solitary and silent confinement, which drove them to suicide, or else sent them back into the world, broken in health, to become derelicts against which the hands of man was ever raised.

While thousands of readers were doubtless shuddering before the repellent picture drawn by the author of this article, several public-spirited Pennsylvanians were already considering a plan whereby the State might convict in the Western Penitentiary, so ameliorated that not even the most sensitive could point a finger of scorn at Pennsylvania's penal system.

Already the ideas of some of these men have borne fruit. There is now before the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, an act "providing for the selection and purchase of a tract of land and the erection thereon of buildings for an appropriation thereto authorizing the removal thereof of the inmates of the said penitentiary and directing the sale of the site now occupied by the said penitentiary and the buildings and material thereon."

This act received the indorsement of the House Appropriations Committee, after John Francis, the big-hearted, far-seeing warden of the Western Penitentiary, who for years had closely studied prison conditions everywhere, told in an unvarnished statement of the revolting conditions he declared existed within the walls of the penitentiary at Pittsburg, how mad and disease had become so common there as to often defy correction.

Gradually the idea was evolved of merging the Eastern and Western penitentiaries and of confining all of the developed inmates in a broad area of open country, where they could be developed into strong men, mentally, morally and physically, while engaged in agricultural or other pursuits. There was no thought of pampering the convict, as some ultra-sentimental persons have been wont to advocate. It was pointed out that, instead of the convict being turned loose upon society, when he had served his term, often crippled by rheumatism or tuberculosis contracted by long confinement in a narrow cell, like now is the case in the Western Penitentiary, that he would possess the vigor and keen brain of a man who could again take his place in the world for the good of both society and himself.

"An open air State prison with both the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries merged together," Mr. Woodward, chairman of the House committee said, the other day, "would not only redound to the credit of the State, but could be conducted on such a practical basis as to pay for itself and at the same time save us large sums of money that we now have to expend annually."

Mr. Woodward, whose position has made an adept at mathematical calculations, advanced various figures to prove his contention that the State of Pennsylvania, in creating an open air penitentiary, would be making a highly profitable investment.

In the first place, the State possesses 936,000 acres of forest reservation. It is proposed to locate the new Western Penitentiary upon or adjoining some part of this reservation and eventually to blend the Eastern Penitentiary with it that the State's prisoners would all be put to work in the open air, with the forest and the sky for their environment.

Mr. Woodward estimates that the present sites of the two penitentiaries would realize the sum of \$2,000,000, an amount that would more than pay for building material and other necessary equipment for the contemplated open air penal colony. The convicts would be employed upon the erection of the necessary buildings, according to the plan that is being gradually formed, which would not only keep them occupied in the open air, but

MINISTERIUM URGE.

The Sunday Closing of the Bellefonte Post Office.

At a meeting of the Bellefonte Ministerium, held Tuesday afternoon at the Y. M. C. A. building, to which the business men of Bellefonte had been invited, Postmaster Harter and Asst. Postmaster Chambers presented information relative to the work now imposed upon their men every Sunday morning, in order that a Sunday office delivery of mail can be made.

It was stated that a force of eight men were at work several hours every Sunday morning; that only a limited number of persons called at the office for their mail, and that some of the largest business firms never lifted their mail on Sunday.

Because of the Sunday morning delivery of mail at this office, these eight men are prevented from enjoying their lawful day of rest and denied the privilege of attending Sunday morning services.

Believing that all unnecessary work on the Lord's Day is wrong, and that the employees of the Post Office have a right to their Sunday as a day of rest, which accords with the opinion of the Hon. Postmaster General, who believes that every man is entitled to one day of rest in every seven. The Bellefonte Ministerium unanimously agreed to request the Hon. Postmaster General to instruct the postmaster of the Bellefonte office to discontinue all Sunday delivery of mail to patrons, in-so-far as such an order will not conflict with any existing rules of the Post Office Department.

In taking such action we realize that we are making an unusual request, but are following the example of many cities and towns throughout the United States. We further believe that the closing of our post office on Sunday will aid very materially in effecting a better observance of the Lord's Day in this community.

AMBROSE M. SCHMIDT,
JAS. F. HOWER,
C. C. SHUEY,
Committee.

FROM THE FAR NORTH.

Dr. Grenfel's Coming the Event of the Week.

On Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock Dr. Grenfel, the famous explorer and lecturer, will give an illustrated lecture in the Presbyterian church at this place, on his thrilling work among the destitute deep-sea fishermen of the Far North—Labrador and its ice packs. The price of admission will be \$1.00 and 50c. Tickets are on sale at the Y. M. C. A.

The lecture is one that will interest everyone, and of such unusual excellence that no one can afford to miss this exceptional opportunity. Dr. Grenfel, who was knighted by King Edward in 1907, is prominently before the reading public. Last Summer 1899 University of Penna. students gave him an enthusiastic reception, having built special seats in the gymnasium to accommodate the crowd. They gave \$1600 for a motor boat which serves as an ambulance in the North Country. Mrs. Grenfel will accompany Dr. Grenfel.

Do not miss this chance of hearing this much talked of and much written about man.

Model Orchard Meetings.

The third week of the State Model Orchard demonstration schedule covering the entire State, is now in progress. These meetings are held in the orchards of public institutions and private individuals for the purpose of teaching farmers and fruit growers the best methods of suppressing pests and growing perfect fruit with the least outlay of time and money, and are conducted by the Horticultural Inspectors in charge of Prof. Surface, Economic Zoologist, of the State Department of Agriculture.

Reports of the last two weeks from the neighborhoods in which demonstrations were given show unprecedented interest and attendance. Exercises begin at one o'clock P. M., and the dates and places scheduled for next week are as follows:

Newton C. Neidigh, State College, Centre Co., April 6th.
Elizabeth D. Green, Bellefonte, Centre Co., April 8th.
C. B. Grieb, Mill Hill, Clinton Co., April 5th.

Famous Lecturer Coming.

Sir Wilfred T. Grenfell, doctor, mariner, missionary, will lecture in the Bellefonte Presbyterian church Saturday evening, April 1st. His work has been so famous and unique that he was knighted by King Edward in 1907.

The lecturer is himself a rare man; but his subject is quite unique; his work among a fishing people along a thousand miles of coast of Labrador and Newfoundland, and the people themselves illustrated by views on the screen.

The general price of admission will be one dollar, though there will be a few fifty cent seats. All the proceeds will go directly to the deep sea fishermen.

Marriage License.

John S. Rishel - - - Madisonburg
Cora M. Shaffer - - - Madisonburg
Mitchell Poorman - - - Snow Shoe
Rose Heaton - - - Yarnell
J. W. Bair - - - Smulton
Josie P. Runkle - - - Smulton
Wm. L. Cramer - - - State College
Gertie E. Swartz - - - Bellefonte
Harry B. Walk - - - Philadelphia
Jessie Middleton - - - Chester Hill
Jas. T. Emel - - - Bellefonte
Mary N. Lucas - - - Howard
John Collins - - - Cassanora
Sarah Morgan - - - Winburne

MANY PERISH IN NEW YORK FIRE

SHIRT WAIST FACTORY THE SCENE OF CONFLAGRATION.

NEARLY 150 PEOPLE ARE DEAD

Seven Hundred Employees Were in the Building When Fire Started—Many Were Crushed to Death by Jumping From Windows.

One of the most horrible fire catastrophes this country has witnessed since the burning of the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago eight years ago, was visited upon New York City Saturday afternoon last, when more than one hundred and fifty persons, nearly all girls, were either burned to death or crushed by jumping from the upper floors of a ten-story building. The scene of the conflagration was a shirt waist factory at 23 Washington Place, where seven hundred hands, five hundred of them girls, were employed, and the tremendous loss of life is attributed to the fact that no outside fire escapes were provided on the building. In all there were seven exits—the single fire escape in the air shaft, two freight elevators at the rear, two passenger elevators at the front, and two stairways. All of them proved almost useless, and practically all who escaped either climbed to the roof, and scrambled thence to the roof of the American Book Company adjoining, or fled in the first rush for safety before the crash and the smoke grew too thick.

Seven hundred hands, 500 of them women, were employed by the shirt-waist company. They sat in rows at their whirling machines, the tables before them piled with flimsy cloth, the floors littered with lint, the air itself full of flying, inflammable dust. The first rush of flame was almost an explosion. Operators died in their chairs, their lungs seared by inhaling flame. Others were crowded into the elevator shafts after the cars had made their last trip. Still others were pushed off the inadequate interior fire escape.

Fire Nets Gorged.

The first outside intimation of the fire was had when pedestrians going home through Washington Place to Washington Square were scattered by the whiz of something rushing through the air before them; there was a horrible pop on the pavement and a body flattened on the flags. Wayfarers on the opposite side of the street shaded their eyes against the setting sun and saw the windows of the upper floors of the building black with fire and flames. There were no fire escapes.

"Don't jump! Don't jump!" yelled the crowd. But the girls had no alternative. The pressure of the panicked hundreds behind them and the urging of their own fears were too strong. They began to fall to the sidewalk in a terrible rain of flesh and blood.

Four alarms were rung within fifteen minutes. Before the engines could reach the scene the nets could be stretched or the ladders raised, five girls had fallen from the eighth and ninth floors so heavily that they broke through the glass and iron roofs of the sub-cellars and crashed through the very streets into the vaults below.

In such a horrible stream did the bodies overflow from the windows that the fire nets, stretched by the first companies to arrive, were soon gorged beyond capacity. Twelve bodies were hurled into the bursting point, but the bodies kept on tumbling to the pavement through meshes that could no longer support them.

It was 85 feet from the ninth floor, 115 feet from the cornice, and the upward rush of the draught and the crackle of the flames drowned their cries. Six girls fought their way to a window on the ninth floor over the bodies of fallen fellow-workers and crawled out in single file to an eighth floor window, running to a tenth floor window. More than a hundred feet above the sidewalk they crept along their perilous pathway to a swinging electric feed wire spanning Washington Place.

Crash Down to Death.

The leaders paused for their companions to catch up at the end of the ledge, and the six grabbed the wire simultaneously. It snapped like rotten whipcord and they crashed down to death. A thirteen-year-old girl hung for three minutes by her finger tips to the sill of a tenth floor window. A tongue of flame licked at her fingers and she dropped into a life net held by firemen. Two women fell into the net at almost the same moment. The strands parted, and the two were added to the death list. A girl threw her pocket-book, that her hat, then her feet from a tenth-floor window. A moment later her body came whirling after them to death. At a ninth-floor window a man and a woman appeared. The man embraced the woman and kissed her. Then he hurled her to the street and jumped. Both were killed.

From one window a girl of about thirteen years, a woman, a man and two women with their arms about one another threw themselves to the ground in rapid succession.

The little girl was whirled to the New York Hospital in an automobile. She screamed as the driver and a policeman lifted her into the conveyance. A surgeon came out and gave one look at her face and touched her wrist. "She is dead," he said. One girl jumped into a horse blanket held by firemen and policemen. The blanket ripped like cheesecloth and her body was mangled almost beyond recognition.

Another dropped into a tarpaulin held by three men. Her weight tore it from their grasp and she struck the street, breaking almost every bone in her body.

In an hour a fire was out; in half an hour it had done its worst; probably the death list was full in twenty minutes.

William Gates, of Howard, spent Sunday with his sister, Miss Pearl Gates, at Juniata.

CENSUS STATISTICS FOR CENTRE COUNTY

THERE WAS A LARGE INCREASE IN THE STATE.

A SMALL GAIN IN THE COUNTY

A General Drift From Country to Towns and Cities—Borough and Towns in Detail—Gains and Losses. From 1900 to 1910.

Detailed population statistics of Pennsylvania has been issued by E. Dana Durand, director of the census. The total population of the state is 7,965,111 as against 6,302,115.

The detailed figures show a startling trend of population from the rural townships and farming towns to the larger boroughs and towns. As a whole, the cities and boroughs show substantial gains, as do many of the townships in the coal fields. The purely agricultural districts show the greatest loss.

The detailed population for Centre county is as follows:

	1910	1900
Bellefonte borough	4145	4216
Benner township	1215	1242
Boggs township	1565	1899
Burnside township	356	444
Centre Hall borough	509	537
College township	1135	1140
Curtin township	740	543
Ferguson township	1558	1512
Greag township	1635	2092
Haines township	1176	1400
Halfmoon township	562	624
Harris township	769	826
Howard township	467	563
Howard township	799	819
Huston township	674	750
Liberty township	1225	1100
Marion township	486	536
Miles township	1303	1347
Millsborough borough	531	594
Milford township	628	612
Pattor township	907	924
Penn township	856	880
Phillipsburg borough	3583	2866
Pott township	1471	1765
Rush township	3763	2439
Snow Shoe borough	64	100
Shoshone township	216	260
South Phillipsburg borough	434	497
Spring township	3075	2921
State College borough	1425	851
Taylor township	493	564
Union township	777	846
Unionville borough	907	924
Unionville township	1164	1270
North township	754	732
CENTRE COUNTY	43,424	42,894

Progressives to Stump State.

Senator Bourne, of Oregon, will address the house judiciary general committee at a public hearing on April 14, and will plead the cause of the progressive versus delegated government. The hearing has been called to give advocates of the initiative and referendum a chance to state their case. Bourne is accompanied by Senator Grange and the State Federation of Labor, which have arranged the hearing.

Although arranged without any reference to subsequent events, the address will really be the beginning of a state-wide campaign in Pennsylvania in behalf of popular government. During July and September Senator Poindecker, of Oregon; La Follette, of Wisconsin; Owen Gore, of Oklahoma, and Chapman, of Minnesota, will speak at a series of field meetings to be held by the State Grange, terminating with the big annual picnic at Centre Hall and Williams Grove.

It is understood that while the speaking campaign will be under the auspices of the grange, it will be followed sympathetically by the National Progressive Republican League, in which Senators Bourne, Poindecker, La Follette and Clapp are leaders.

Farm Wages Have Raised.

Higher wages were paid to American farm laborers during 1910 than at any time in the last 45 years, according to statistics just made public by the Department of Agriculture. The average wage for the country was \$27.50 per month during 1910, while 20 years ago they were only \$18.32. With board the average wage was 19.21.

In some parts of the country the rate of wages of farm laborers was higher than in others. The highest was in Nevada, where the rate was \$54, while in Montana and Washington it was \$50. South Carolina paid the lowest rate, \$16.50 per month.

Fire Near Axemann.

On Monday night, 20th, the house owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, about a mile beyond Axemann, was burned to the ground, together with the contents. Insurance on the dwelling and household goods to the amount of \$350 was held in the W. H. Musser agency of this place, which will be promptly paid.

Appropriations Committee Coming.

The appropriation committee of the legislature is scheduled to arrive at State College this Thursday evening, and will remain there until Friday afternoon when they will be in Bellefonte to inspect the hospital. In the evening the committee will be entertained at the new Country Club house at Hecla.

Arbor Days.

Governor Tener has issued a proclamation designating April 7 and 28 as Arbor days. In his message the governor says that if Arbor day is to be properly observed three trees should be planted and something of practical value concerning trees should be taught in the school and at home.

A New School Building.

Architect Robt. Cole recently made out plans and specifications for a new high school building to be erected at Hubersburg, Pa., and the same were approved by the school board of Walker township. The structure will be of brick and will be conveniently arranged for the purpose.

OPERATIONS STOPPED.

Many Objections to the High Street Bridge.

Monday evening there was a conference between the County Commissioners and the borough council, and the property owners in the vicinity of the bridge, who felt that they would be injured in case a gorge should form at the bridge during a heavy flood. They met in the office of John Blanchard, Esq., where the whole question was freely discussed. The representatives of the York Bridge Company were notified of the meeting and requested to come on at once. All work on the bridge was stopped since then and nothing will be done until some satisfactory agreement can be reached by all parties concerned.

No injunction was issued to restrain the work but notices were served on the County Commissioners and the borough officials that property owners protested to the completion of the proposed bridge with the suspended trusses below the flood line.

The remodeling of the High street bridge is a subject of general comment. The middle truss having been removed, and the trusses being placed underneath to support the structure, has given rise to much speculation. These trusses are several feet below the flood line of the customary spring freshets, and in consequence there is common fear that in case the course of the stream becomes blocked by ice and drift serious damage would follow. It would mean a damming back of the water that would flood surrounding properties and might cause a serious bill of damages for either the county or borough to pay. There might be sufficient force back of such an obstruction to move the entire bridge from the foundations. No one can prove that would be the case, but who knows what might happen. In our opinion, it is taking a very serious risk.

All work has been suspended on the bridge since Monday. The representative of the York Bridge Company was here and, after looking over the situation, left to prepare new specifications that will be submitted later for the approval of all parties concerned.

There is much criticism heard of our borough and county officials in connection with this bridge contract. It is claimed that it was not given proper consideration, and that the attitude of part of the council with holding all information from the majority members, and taking no action in regular session was anything but courteous and prudent or business like.

WAR SCARE OVER.

Japan and This Country Are at Peace.

During the past week there were no alarming reports from the Mexican frontier. No one seems to fear that we will have a conflict with either Japan or Mexico. The President and the Mikado recently exchanged the most cordial greetings assuring all that both countries were anxious to remain on the same friendly terms as heretofore.

Down in Mexico there was somewhat of a surprise the past week by President Diaz's entire cabinet resigning, and other men substituted. This action is considered a concession to the insurgents and a confession by Diaz that he no longer is the dictator, as in former years. It even is intimated that President Diaz contemplates resigning and spending his remaining years in Europe.

There is no doubt but that the Mexican government faces a crisis and several conditions in the interior are more unsettled than is generally known. Under such circumstances the Mexicans have enough trouble at home, without inviting a controversy with Uncle Sam's army is still mobilized on the frontier and the officers and men are having a royal good time on dress parade, while the poor devils at home pay all the bills.

LATE PRIMARIES.

The opinion now prevails that the legislature will pass the bill changing the time for holding the spring primaries from June 2nd to September 30th.

Why this should be done we are unable to say, only that it is a trick of the political bosses to crowd the primaries so close to the general elections as to prevent the formation of independent tickets.

The candidates, in Centre county, who have been attending all the public sores the past month will not be anxious to continue the campaign four months longer.

Get Busy Now.

The business men of Bellefonte will get together at once. There will be an important meeting in the office of W. Harrison Walker, on Friday evening, that should enlist the active support of every business man and public spirited citizen of the community. An organization is needed and will likely be effected. Several important matters will be presented that might prove a great benefit to the town, if properly handled.

Remember the time and place, at W. Harrison Walker's law office at once, Friday evening. If you are interested in the future prosperity of Bellefonte, be there. Show your face.

Hospital Notes.

Operations: Miss Rye Tate, Bellefonte, appendicitis; George Flick, amputation first finger of left hand; Fleming, amputation of first finger of left hand.

Discharged: Mrs. Belle Barr, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Cora Fink, of Julian.

Died: Mrs. Rose Bierly, of Millsburg; and Carl Ungena, of Bellefonte.

There are twenty-six patients in the hospital at present.

Prof. F. Milford Fletcher, principal of the schools of Howard borough moved his household effects from Blanchard to that place Saturday, where he and his family will make their residence.

THE SPROWL ROAD BILL WILL BE PASSED

EVERYBODY SEEMS FAVORABLE TO THE MEASURE.

STATE ROADS FOR CENTRE CO.

Will Be Constructed and Maintained by the State—Experimental Road at State College—Appropriates \$50,000,000 For Better Highways.

The Sprowl road bill has made progress in the legislature the past week, and in a short time will be up to the Governor who will most surely sign the measure, as it was one of the principal topics urged in his inaugural address. The people of the state are for this bill, and for that reason we believe it will be signed. As the measure implies a large loan of \$50,000,000, it will require some time until all the formalities of procedure can be complied with, and the people have voted for the loan.

As many will know, this bill provides for the construction of a system of highways over the entire state, that will connect all the county seats and leading towns with a network of roads that will be constructed and maintained by the state. This requires some radical changes and elaborate provisions to cover all the conditions that will arise, and the Sprowl Bill necessarily has been given much attention in framing to cover all these problems, as far as can be ascertained at this time. There will be a system of dividing the work into districts over the state, with superintendents and competent engineers to oversee the work so as to secure the best results for the money expended.

When the original bill was presented, it provided for the following state roads in this county: from Lewisburg to Bellefonte; from Lewisburg through Woodward and Pennsylvania to the Old Fort in Potter Twp.; from Clearfield to Phillipsburg, across the Allegheny mountains to Fort Matilda; and from Lock Haven to Tyrone through the Bald Eagle Valley. Since the amended bill has been reported out of the committee and approved, we hear that the route from Lock Haven to Tyrone through the Bald Eagle Valley, has been abandoned, and that a route from Mill Hill through Nittany valley has been adopted that will pass by State College on westward by Pennsylvania Furnace to the Huntingdon county line, and continue from there to Huntingdon, also passing the road to Tyrone and Altoona.

The change of the road was due to various reasons. In the first place there is a fine stretch of state road now from Lock Haven up to Mill Hill, and on westward towards State College. The road from Nittany valley over a limestone country with a solid roadbed to start with, and material right alongside the road to make the improvements. Nittany valley has a large scope of fine farming country with picturesque scenery along the entire route and leads directly into Bellefonte, the county seat, while the other routes would have been three miles from Bellefonte, Penna. State College, being a fine educational institution, would have been missed and this would have been a mistake. When the first bill was published the friends of the college deplored that fact and from all parts of the state there came appeals to have a state road pass by the institution. The Board of Managers of the college made a strong appeal to the committee on routes to have such a road located through Nittany valley. In this they were joined by similar strong appeals from citizens of Blair and Huntingdon counties to have the road to the College and Bellefonte by the way of State College. That was the sentiment that induced the committee to make a change, and the continuation of the road from Bellefonte to Mill Hill through Nittany valley, followed as a natural consequence.

Possibly the most important consideration for the change was another project. This Sprowl bill may not be in effect for three or four years. In undertaking such a problem the State wants all the experience that can be had. Over a year ago the faculty of State College was in touch with the Highway Department and a movement was formulated to have an experimental stretch of road constructed out from state college for a distance of eight or ten miles that would be built under the specifications of the State College engineering department who would be on the ground constantly and direct the work from the start to the finish. Different kinds of roads were to be built to test the quality of the different materials. It was to be a continuous stretch of differently constructed roads to test the durability of each. This experimental road was located from State College to Leont and from there through College and Benner townships along the Lauertertown road to Pleasant Gap. This road, we are informed, will be constructed at once, and will be independent of the Sprowl Bill, but when the Sprowl bill goes into effect, this stretch of road along with the state road from Mill Hill will leave only a small portion to build.

Bedford Gets One License.

License court convened in Bedford county on Wednesday morning, 15th, after the judges had taken several days to consider the various applications for licenses. All licenses were refused throughout the county with the exception of that of the Bedford Springs hotel. This is the one that practically confines its sales to the registered patrons of the house.

Reception to State Students.

A reception will be held in the High school building at Altoona on Friday evening, following a concert to be given in the auditorium of the school by the orchestra of State College. Dr. Sparks, president of State College, has consented to accompany the orchestra and give a talk in the interim of the musical program.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)