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ELECTRIC COMPANY SEEKS FRANCHISES

THE BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE GREATLY INVOLVED.

BOARD OF TRADE SHOULD ACT

If It Is a Promotion Scheme it Would Injure Bellefonte—Who Is It?—What Is It?—Legitimate Enterprises Deserve Encouragement.

During the past week the citizens of Bellefonte have had their curiosity aroused by the appearance of advertisements in the local papers for the applications for charters for electric companies in the following districts surrounding this community: Banner Township, College Township, State College Boro, Centre Hall Boro, Potter Township, Unionville Boro, Union Township, Milesburg Boro, Boggs Township, Howard Boro, Howard Township, and Spring Township. The character and object of which is for the purpose of supplying heat, light and power, or either of them by electricity, to the public in these various districts, and to such persons, partnerships and corporations residing therein, or adjacent to the same, as they desire the same, and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges by said Act of Assembly and the supplements thereto conferred.

The application will be made to the Governor on the 5th of February by W. Lee, A. J. Munster and W. W. Wrigley, all of whom are of Clearfield, and the solicitor is H. P. Wallace, of same place.

Why the boro of Bellefonte is not included in the list we do not know nor can we answer the numerous inquiries. On the general assumption that newspaper men are supposed to "know everything," to more or less degree of what is transpiring in the community; a great many people have inquired at this office as to what this movement means to electrify everything about the town. We have been embarrassed more than once to honestly and frankly admit that we "do not know," and that is the truth. It has induced us to approach a number of prominent citizens and none of them seem to have any definite "inside information" as to what is going on. All seem to have some sort of a surmise, and the general supposition is that it means a consolidation of the water powers along the Bald Eagle creek, taking in Milesburg, Unionville and Howard, with a view of supplying power, especially for a proposed trolley line at least from Bellefonte to State College, and may later connect with other points in the districts mentioned in the various applications.

We deem it our duty to cast particular attention to these applications for charters, for we believe that the more directly interest the business interests of this community than anything that has been proposed for some time. Bellefonte now seems to be on the eve of a commercial development, due to the location of the proposed trolley line, and the fact that there seems to be a settled conviction that a trolley line between Bellefonte and State College will be a convenience and will prove a profitable investment.

Some years ago there was a movement on foot under the direction of a Pittsburg party to connect a trolley line between these points. The charter was secured, and franchises granted by the two boros, and the line surveyed to assure them the right of way—and that was all. Many of the obligations that were incurred in this community by the promoter were never paid, or was any apparent effort made by him to do so up to this time. In making this statement we speak for ourselves, and in behalf of others. We have been repeatedly told that there is much doubt if that promoter then had any serious intention to build a trolley line between these two points, and his efforts seemed only to secure a charter, franchises and right of way, and then peddle them around in the hope of a fat speculation—having failed in that, nothing further was ever done. The people suffered no inconvenience in consequence, for the rights that he held for two years did not apparently annoy anyone else who might have had some serious intentions along the same line, and the chances to promote a legitimate enterprise.

Now a different situation confronts the citizens of Bellefonte. A trolley line is needed between here and State College, and it should be built at once, when the weather permits operations, for we believe that the promoter work for the construction of the new penitentiary buildings will be rushed along, and on a large scale, giving a great deal of employment to all kinds of skilled labor and superintendents, who naturally will find Bellefonte their central point, and will want to have easy communication with the town.

For that reason we deem it the most important duty that our new Board of Trade can take up; see what is the meaning of these applications for electric charters surrounding Bellefonte. Are they mere promotion schemes, an effort to grasp valuable franchises and rights of way that will block a reliable corporation from erecting a trolley line? Is it simply a scheme to make money of the county? We do not wish from entering the field, unless they pay the promoters a price that is high prohibitive? If that is the purpose of to hold up any legitimate enterprise block the building of a trolley for several years, and in consequence the business interests of the community would suffer accordingly. We have reason to believe that the former application for charter, etc., never amounted to anything else; and for that reason, at this time, our people should be on their guard that no promotion scheme interfere or retard the legitimate business interests of this community in the coming years.

We want it distinctly understood that the Centre Democrat makes no insinuations, intimations, or would cast any reflections on the motives of the gentlemen seeking these charters. As far as we know they are represent-

tative business men of Clearfield, and have financial standing. We are ready to join in encouraging every move that will in any way aid and develop the business interests of this community; and we welcome the assistance of outside capital in any such laudable undertaking. At the same time we know that these men are not directly interested in the welfare of this community, and certainly are not identified with its business interests. While they ask nothing of Bellefonte, their charters, if granted by the Governor, would enable them to block every approach to the town by trolley on paper only, for several years. The town would be in a pocket; would be at their mercy in a situation the business interests of the community can not afford.

In order to avoid such an unfortunate situation, we believe that the new Board of Trade, of Bellefonte, through its proper officers, should at once take this matter under consideration. A thorough investigation should be made and if satisfactory the community should endorse and in every manner encourage the granting of all those charters. If this only allows a few speculators an opportunity to block the future business development of this community, then a vigorous protest should be made in proper form. Now is the time to act.

23 BELOW ZERO.

The official thermometer at the Bellefonte weather station, on last Saturday morning registered 22 degrees below zero—a record breaker for this section. On Thursday morning, the day previous, it registered 8 degrees below zero, which was the lowest this winter here—a drop of 14 degrees during the night. This breaks the record. At State College, the official thermometer registered same as here, 22 below zero.

The mercury on Saturday having registered 22 below zero, went one better on Sunday morning, and dropped to 23 below. These two mornings registered farther below zero than we have any record of in these parts. In some sections of the state reports reached us of forty below zero, and in some parts of the county as low as 36 degrees and lower. But these latter were not by the official instruments. The cold wave covered all sections of the United States, and perhaps may not again be equalled.

Last summer we had the highest reading for heat, an extreme never before felt in these parts, being 108 in the shade; and now we have the lower reading of the official instruments Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th, from 22 degrees down to 23, and some parts registering lower. Monday morning mercury registered 2 below zero—considerable of a let-up.

BOYS CONFESS MANY THEFTS.

For Months, Stores, Post Offices and Residences Have Been Rifled.

Three young men, scarcely out of their teens, have been taken into custody by the State constabulary stationed at Philipsburg on the charge of thieving in the vicinity of Muncion, Clearfield county, and it is largely believed that they are also largely responsible for the series of robberies of all kinds, ranging from post offices to porches, that have taken place along the border towns between Clearfield and Centre counties during the past three months.

The boys are Jesse Potts, William Fishburn and Ernest Carlson, the latter of Grass Flat, and the former from Philipsburg. They were arrested at Muncion station, the charge being the theft of chickens from the home of Wilson Blough. They were given a hearing and committed to jail.

One of the boys, Carlson, pleaded guilty to robbing the store of J. P. Eisenhour, at Grass Flat, and is being held in the county jail until sentence is pronounced. It is expected that the commission of other crimes will be confessed by the boys.

A Novel Social Entertainment.

The recent organized Ladies Aid Society, of the Lutheran church of Pleasant Gap, will hold a social in Noll's Hall on Saturday evening, Jan. 20th, the proceeds to be applied to the building fund. The committee have determined that all who kindly favor them with their patronage, will get value received. The high cost of living advocates will on this occasion get a chilly frost. The admission into the hall will be 3c or 2 for 5c, java or mocho coffee 3c or 2 for 5c, and sandwiches 3c or 2 for 5c. Ice cream, cake, candy, popcorn at the same liberal rate. Many pleasing attractions will be pulled off, all of which must be seen to be appreciated. A most cordial invitation is extended to all.

Marriage Licenses.

Ralph S. Walker - - - State College
Mary A. Elder - - - Penna. Furnace
Geo. W. Mays - - - Milesburg
Margaret Hardey - - - Victor
Frank Fabach - - - Pittsburg
Maud Piskey - - - Bellefonte
W. Albert Rhoads - - - Bellefonte
Alice B. Shilling - - - State College
J. R. Clifford - - - Philipsburg
Mrs. M. B. Mapledoran - - - Philipsburg
John L. Paul - - - Renovo
Anna M. Nickles - - - Renovo
Wm. Hoover - - - Pine Glenn
Edith M. Meeker - - - Pine Glenn

A CLEVER FORGER VISITS BELLEFONTE

TAKES AWAY CASH AND MERCHANDISE.

USED NUMEROUS SMALL CHECKS

Buy's Clothing, Shoes, Cutlery and Other Goods—A Good Description—Authorities Are After Him—Selected Leading Merchants—Who Was It?

Saturday afternoon several of the business men of Bellefonte got a bad customer who was successful in passing four or five bad checks on them, and since that time they have been trying to get some clue as to who he was where he came from. From the description given us he was a young man of about twenty years of age, medium height, light ruddy complexion, sandy hair, weight about 145 to 150 lbs. smooth face, rather innocent looking and every appearance of being a country lad. He wore a dark brown summer suit, with a dark stripe in it, which was pretty well worn. Under the coat he wore a white coat sweater and about his neck "sweet-ette" or scarf that was of white ground color but had a distinct red zigzag border running through it, that was quite prominent. At one store he purchased a red coat sweater, and a long overcoat of black and white alternate, heavy twilled goods.

His victim several clothing stores. He visited several hardware stores, at which places he purchased goods and in payment offered checks on the First National Bank, of Bellefonte, supposed to be drawn by E. F. Homan, of near State College. One of them was in favor of Joe Kildner, another John Parker, etc., and each for the amount of \$15. At most places he secured considerable cash as his change on the checks. At Casebeer's store he presented a check that he claimed had been drawn by Geo. B. Thompson, but Mr. Casebeer thought that the penmanship was not genuine and made some pretext for not giving the young man the money that he selected.

On Monday the checks began to come back from the banks and in a short time it was discovered that a number of merchants who are forgers by the same clever individual. They have a good description of the young man and have had officers chasing after him, and they believe that they will be able to land him soon. For some reason the merchants insisted that their names be withheld from the matter and hope to have a still hunt for the forger. This we believe is a mistake. With the description that has been given there should be some one in this county who is able to identify the man.

Each man should have posted a good reward for the chap's capture, and in this way they would have enlisted the co-operation of people over the county, and given others a warning that such criminals will be run to the limit. It is believed that the young man who did this work is a native of the county, as he was familiar with individuals and firms in the vicinity of State College and Oak Hill, and used their names quite freely.

UNDUE HASTE.

Samuel H. Williams, postmaster of Bellefonte, died on Tuesday morning, and the interment will take place on Saturday morning in the Union cemetery at this place. The sureties on the bond have selected Harry Keller, Esq., to act as the temporary postmaster, to take charge of the finances and perform other official duties, until the department makes the proper arrangements for the future.

If half the rumors are true, for the past two days the telegraph office at Bellefonte has been working overtime for ambitious politicians who are forwarding messages to Gov. Tener, Congressman Patton and Senator Penrose, soliciting their aid for the appointment. And one is said to be in Washington now to have a personal interview. At least a dozen names are mentioned as aspirants for the position already, and some, we are informed, are circulating their petitions. This shows a high degree of greed, and decidedly bad taste, especially remains in his home, awaiting the sad rites. We hope that the good judgment of the community will prevail in this matter, and that some of the loyal friends of the late Samuel H. Williams will prevail upon the department to extend some little courtesy to the bereaved family, and to entertaining the appeals of these inconsiderate politicians.

Had Narrow Escape.

John Stover, driving with a load of household goods from Centre county to York, Pa., had one of his horses slip on a railroad crossing near Reedsville. He unhitched the other and took it away, but before he could get the fallen horse to its feet a passenger train came around a curve and struck it. The horse ran 200 feet and dropped dead. The sled was wrecked and most of its contents badly damaged. Miss Bertha Bible, of Potters Mills, who was on the sled, saved her life by jumping just as the train got in its work.

A Surprise.

We can say tax payers of Centre county that they will have a good healthy surprise one of these days when they get some definite information regarding the condition of the finances of the county. We do not wish to unduly frighten anyone, yet they should put themselves in a receptive frame of mind when they learn just where they are at. Mark this prediction.

Altoona a Terminal.

Contingent upon the building of a new station at Altoona, which is contemplated by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania railroad, it is reported that the Pennsylvania proposes to make that city the terminal for all trains on the Cresson & Clearfield, Bellwood & Tyrone Divisions, instead of Cresson, Bellwood, and Tyrone, respectively.

PENNSVALLEY HAS A TELEPHONE WAR

SUBSCRIBERS HOLD AN INDIGNATION MEETING.

REFUSE TO PAY BELLS RATES

Make Three Propositions—Threaten to Abandon the System—Reward for Nursing a Big Corporation—The Same Old Story—Telephone History.

For some time there has been great dissatisfaction among the users of the Bell Telephone system in Pennsvalley. The people over there were induced some few years ago to drop the independent or commercial lines, and started by home capital, and go back to the Bell, with assurance of lower rates and better service in the future. Under that arrangement a great many lines were secured in Pennsvalley, and independent phones were almost put out of competition in that section. They thereby tied themselves to the greatest corporation in the country to day, and one that never was free of the charge of extortion where they had a monopoly. And it was the extortion rates that were charged in this community years ago by the Bell company, that induced the organization of the independent system as the only salvation; and in consequence the rates came down all over the county under the healthy competition.

The next unfortunate step in the history of the telephone business of the county was that the Grange, which stands as the professed and present ally and grafter, took an interest in the telephone business and allowed itself to be allied with the Bell system, which strengthened that system to tend to a higher rate in the future. Pennsvalley until it has a practical monopoly of the telephone business in that territory, and the independent connections hardly afford them any competition in that valley—hence a real monopoly is created. These are the conditions that have grown up since the people of that valley took this monopoly to their bosom and nursed it, and encouraged it through powerful organization. Now what is the result. The people over in Pennsvalley recently were notified that they have to pay a higher rate in the future. That they claim is an imposition, that they were assured a permanent low rate when they tied up with the Bell system.

On that account an indignation meeting was held at Millheim on last Friday by the citizens of that community who are users of the Bell phone to protest to the advantage of rates—as they feel they have been imposed upon. The meeting was largely attended. After considerable discussion it was determined to appoint a committee to confer with the company. The following were present on behalf of the company Messrs. Mallie, of Bellefonte; Robb, of Williamsport; and Williams of Bellefonte. The citizens committee consists of Dr. Frank and A. Walters, of Millheim; Walter Crank, of Tyrone; Prof. C. L. Gramley, of Rebersburg; and some others. They retired to the home of Dr. Frank where the matter was further discussed.

The citizens committee insisted that the Bell Company make them any one of the following satisfactory propositions: to buy out the lines, rent it to the subscribers, or give them a suitable rate as heretofore. They have asked them to consider the proposition and submit the company's answer inside the next week. This is believed, will not be satisfactory to the people in that section, then it will remain to be seen whether they will submit to the advance in rates, that they claim they were assured, at the outset, would not be made.

LOCAL INSTITUTE.

Teachers' local institute for district No. 2, Bellefonte borough, Banner, Spring and Walker townships, will be held at Pleasant Gap, Pa., on Saturday, January 20, 1912. The following are some of the features of the program:

Morning: Topics for Discussion—How to present the essentials in geography. Nature study, a preparation for geography work. How and when shall we teach home geography? To what extent shall we require written work? How to teach patriotism and citizenship. The importance of reading. How to study. First year science in the high school. Adaptability of the State course in history, to the elementary schools. What are we to do with agriculture? Open Parliament. General discussion of topics suggested by teachers.

Prisoner Wants Dainties.

Sheriff Allen Fultz with his deputy, M. M. Bricker, visited the cell of William Schreder, sentenced to hang Jan. 25, at Lewistown, Pa., for the murder of his sweetheart, Myrtle Singley, and following this consultation announced that the execution would be conducted privately. No tickets will be issued and only the jury, physicians and local newspaper reporters will be admitted. During the visit the condemned man asked the sheriff to send him in a pound of pudding and two pounds of English walnuts, of which he is very fond.

Tyrone Revival.

The greatest revival ever known in that part of the state is in force now in Tyrone. The Rev. Wilton S. Reed of Rochester, N. Y., a noted evangelist, is in charge, assisted by all the pastors of various denominations. It has been necessary to open two extra churches for overflow meetings, so great is the interest.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

A happy birthday party was given for Mrs. Jennie Hoy, of Montandon, Pa., formerly from near Jacksonville, Centre county, at the home of her son Frank Hockenberry, where she resides, on Saturday evening, Jan. 13th, 1912, this being her seventy-fourth birthday anniversary. This was planned to be a complete surprise to mother Hoy, and her many friends could well see how admirably they succeeded.

A very beautiful letter from her son, Prof. John Colter Hockenberry, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was received and read on this occasion. This was very touching as he is the most tender and appreciative manner thanked his beloved mother for the christian manner in which they were reared. He also provided a most beautiful bouquet of carnations.

A BROKEN-HEARTED WIFE.

Wanted Sufferings Kept From Con-vict Husband.

Grief-stricken and broken-hearted, Mrs. Alice Templeton, 40 years old, wife of former State Senator Chambers O. Templeton, of the Blair Huntingdon district, who was sentenced last January to the Western penitentiary on charges of embezzlement and defalcation, died in her apartments in Tyrone Saturday night. Her death is attributed to a general breakdown, said to have started with the trouble in which her husband was involved.

ONE LESS LICENSE.

All New Applications to Sell Liquor Were Refused by Judge.

In a check given the license of Cowen M. Hanna, proprietor of the Clearfield House, an old applicant, was refused, making one license less in Lock Haven. That of D. B. Johnson, for the Junction House, and W. H. Beck, for Beck's Hotel, new applicants, were also refused. The license of Jerry Folsy, a new applicant for the Pennsylvan Hotel was withdrawn.

MARRIAGES.

Walker—Elder. Over 100 invitations were issued for the wedding of Miss May Elder and Ralph Walker, which took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Elder, in the Glades, Jan. 17.

Rhoads—Schillings.

A pretty mid-winter wedding took place at State College on Tuesday, when Miss Alice E. Schillings, of that place, became the bride of Mr. W. Albert Rhoads, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Rhoads, of Coleville. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. W. Winey, of Bellefonte at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Schillings, and was witnessed by a large number of invited guests.

To Give an Entertainment.

The pupils of the school at Peru are preparing to give an entertainment at that place, on Friday evening, Jan. 26th, that promises to be very interesting. Three plays are being rehearsed, and the boys and girls expect to have everything down pat by the time the date arrives, so that those who attend will be well entertained. A small admission fee of 10 and 5 cents will be charged for the benefit of the organ fund.

Little Mary Gillotti, of Philipsburg,

was burned to death on Saturday. Her clothing caught fire from a match in the hands of an older brother.

—Great Bargains during the fire sale at J. Finklestine's store.

SENSATIONAL ARREST AT STATE COLLEGE

POSTAL AUTHORITIES AFTER A POSTAL CLERK.

SELLING OLD POSTAGE STAMPS

Removed From Office and Given a Hearing—Under Bond for Appearance—U. S. Court—A Serious Charge—Bore Good Reputation.

A sensation was sprung at State College on Monday evening by the appearance of a representative of the Post Office Department, who placed one of the clerks, John W. Beck, at the State College post office under arrest. It has been difficult to secure the details of the affair, as there are various stories afloat in that community, and the postal authorities at that place will give no information for publication.

It seems that for some time there was evidence that canceled postage stamps were being used at that office on outgoing mail. One report has it that the matter came to the attention of the Philadelphia office and that an inspector arrived there on Monday and examined a sack of outgoing mail, and found that packages bore stamps that had the evidence of having been used the second time, and in this way the government received nothing for carrying the same.

This could easily be done by a clerk selling old stamps from letters and packages, and when some one would call at the window for stamps, he could attach old stamps, and keep the money paid by the parties for good ones. It is said that Mr. Beck, when confronted with the matter, admitted to his having used stamps in this manner, and he was placed under arrest, and was given a hearing at the local justice's office, where bond was given for his appearance for further hearing at the U. S. Court at Williamsport.

Mr. Beck has lived at State College for several years and has been in the mail service there most of the time. He formerly resided near Jacksonville in Marion Township where he farmed, and always bore a good reputation and comes from a substantial family.

As we say the above account is obtained from various sources as best we could gather it; and we hope that Mr. Beck can show to the department that he is not guilty of the serious charges preferred against him. Mr. Beck held a clerkship that paid him about \$900 annually, Newton Hartwick, in the same office, was appointed to fill Mr. Beck's position.

EDUCATIONAL RALLY.

To Be Held at Julian Friday and Saturday, 26-27.

An educational rally will be held at Julian, Pa. United Brethren church, Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27, and all parents and friends of education are cordially invited to attend. The following are some of the principal features of the program:

Friday evening: Debate—Resolved, "That Washington was a Greater Man than Columbus." Affirmative—J. C. Fox, Ira E. Fisher, Miss Lucy Rowan. Negative—F. W. Dillen, G. E. Ardery, Miss Harriet Turner.

Saturday morning: Address of Welcome, Miss Marion Mattern. Discussion, "Agriculture in the Public Schools," by Reuben Alexander, F. W. Dillen, Miss Marion Mattern and Chas. Myers. Discussion, "Decorating and Beautifying School Surroundings," by Lizzie R. Crum, Olive Way and J. C. Fox. Discussion, "The Importance of Literature in the Public Schools," by Lucy Rowan and Ira E. Fisher.

Saturday afternoon: Recitation, Question Box, Discussion, "The Importance of Regular Attendance," by A. R. Everett, Mabella Norris and Clara K. Meyers. Discussion, "The New School Code," by Georgiana Gage, G. W. Fisher and J. A. Williams. Recitation, Chas. H. Ryder. Roll call, Round table discussion, Home Study, Miss Anna Underwood, "Water Supply for the School," Harriet Turner, "Whispering During School Hours," Ida Turner.

Committee on Entertainment—Clara Myers, Frank Dillen and Ida Turner.

Entertainment will be provided for all who attend.

An Enjoyable Gathering.

A surprise party was sprung on Mrs. Oscar McMullen on Saturday evening at her home at Pleasant View, the occasion being her birthday. It was very secretly planned by her husband and daughter Stella, while the pastry work was superintended by Mrs. John Barnhart, who deserves great credit for the fine entables. The catering was managed by Oscar McMullen, Jr., who understood his business perfectly.

Owing to the extremely cold weather many were kept at home but a goodly number were present and greatly enjoyed themselves until a late hour, and departed, wishing Mrs. McMullen many more such pleasant times. She received many handsome gifts. Those present were as follows: Mrs. John Barnhart, Mrs. Samuel Gordon, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Corman, Misses Emma Gordon, Miriam House, Stale Lambert, Bella Barnhart, Martha Barnhart, Mabel Austin, Kathryn Austin, Leroy Barnhart, Albert Jones and W. Lee Jones. The refreshments consisted of ice cream, cake and coffee.

Hospital Notes.

Operations: Harry Burns, Spring Mills; Emanuel Korman, Bellefonte.

Admitted for treatment: Miss Kate McQuillen, Miss Elizabeth Jones; son born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Zimmerman, Bellefonte.

Discharged: Irvin Martin, aged 4 years, Tyrone; Samuel Waite, Pleasant Gap.

There are 24 patients now in the hospital.

—Come and see the fire sale bargains at J. Finklestine's store.

Daniel Harter, of Jacksonville, is spending some time with B. M. Bierly and family at Jersey Shore.