The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

WEDNESDAY..... March 16, 1898.

A pension of six dollars per month has been granted to Robert Anderson, of Stoneville.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that a first-class flour mill, equipped with modern machinery, is for sale at Ursina.

For first class Ice Cream by the plate, pint, quart or gallon, call at the White Palace Restaurant Saturday nights. Ice Cream made on order and delivered to any part of the town.

Boldness of the skin, horrible plague. Is it not everybody afflicted in one way or another. Only one safe, never failing remedy—Doan's Ointment. At any drug store, 50 cents.

No more lie 5 years until 1904. One due at 1900, but to keep the calendar correct, the leap year which should be counted at the end of a century is dropped.

One hundred or more laborers arrived at Salisbury last week and immediately went to work grading the extension of the Salisbury branch into the new coal fields west of that place.

Jacob D. Swank informs us that he has accepted the local agency for the Columbia bicycle, one of the finest wheels on the market, and that he will enlarge his Main street store room in order to properly display his new line of goods.

Lemer Gardner, of Stanton Mills, has in eighteen months old pullet that has won distinction throughout the north of this county by reason of laying the largest egg ever seen in that section. The egg measures six inches long by four inches in circumference.

It strikes the average, level-headed citizen, as a far-fetched exhibition of good nerve, for a church to give over $600 for foreign missions, when it has not a dollar in the treasury of its charity fund for the relief of the poor and needy, the sick and suffering of its own congregation.

Rev. T. J. Bristow offers his square piano—New York Arion—for sale. The instrument is a very fine one, having cost $900, and is in perfect condition. It can be examined at his residence. Only a reasonable cash offer will be considered.

Ex-Sheriff Hoover claims to have killed the first snake of the season on his farm south of town last Friday. Mr. Hoover also claims to have seen a number of grasshoppers in one of his meadows during the last few days. The early appearance of grasshoppers is not a sure sign of war.

Eggs are now about twelve cents a dozen, and reports from the country declare that the hens are laying them all over the farm. When they were worth fifteen cents a dozen, the hens would not lay at all. There are some queer animals in this world besides men.

A Somerset county hen is laying eggs with a "W" on one side and the American flag on the other, we are told. This is indeed, as the correspondent says, "evidently significant," for the hen is evidently trying to break the record of the Blair county liar who saw the fiery form of the cross in the sky.—Johnstown Tribune.

Messrs. H. B. Cober and B. C. Landis of Berlin, have leased the insurance office of the late Esq. Hicks, on West Main street, and will within the next ten days start a first-class cigar factory. Both young men come well recommended and there can be no doubt but that they will find a ready sale for all the "stogies" they can manufacture.

Woodbury township, Bedford county, has a schoolhouse with a peculiar record, and it may be the means of causing some unpleasant complications. Not a single scholar has attended the school in five months, but the teacher goes there each day and remains the required number of hours. He was elected for a six month term, and will insist upon the directors paying him for the full time.

Every family should have its household medicine chest, and the first bottle in it should be Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, nature's remedy for coughs and colds.

J. L. Brown, of Larimer, whose avoirdupois is 478 pounds, is the heaviest man in Westmoreland county or in Western Pennsylvania, for that matter. He is the father of 12 bright, promising children. The show manager offered him $150 per month and expenses to make a tour of the European continent, and another offered him $100 per month and expenses to exhibit himself in this country.

In the valley of Sewickley creek, near West Newton, there is a peculiar flat of ground known as "The Cove." It embraces several hundred acres of bog land. Jesse Hayden of McKeesport, proposes to purchase it and start a frog farm to supply the Pittsburg market with this delicacy. He proposes to lay out this novel farm in plots with walks between, on which he will plant traps to catch animals which prey upon frogs, at once protecting his stock in trade and adding to his profits. Mr. Hayden is a man of some wealth, and able to carry out this scheme.

Several thousand gallons of maple molasses have been delivered to local merchants during the past ten days. Many owners of sugar groves find it more profitable to manufacture molasses than sugar and as a result the output of the former becomes larger each year. There is always a good market for maple molasses at sixty-five cents per gallon, while the price of sugar varies from time to time, it being governed by the price of "white" sugar. Maple sugar, however, has always commanded from one to two cents more per pound than its rival. Thousands of gallons of maple molasses are annually shipped from this county to the city markets, while several local dealers have established a large trade for it in the cities and towns west of the Mississippi.

There has been, since the going into operation of the Free Text-Book law in this State, considerable discussion in some districts as to the right of pupils to the use of the books which they had during the winter for the purpose of study in vacation. Where select schools were conducted the Directors were appealed to, and the privilege was generally granted, but not always. Now, however, the matter is determined by a law which was passed in June of the last term of the State Legislature. According to it, the books may be used during the summer months, if there is a school in session, the same as during the regular term of the winter, and the teacher is responsible for their proper care and safe return to the schoolhouse in time for use at the regular term.

We are inclined to wonder if certain people who profess that they would welcome war with Spain are counting the expense of it. We do not refer to the more impossible parties, still less to those who are described by Congressman Cannon, of Illinois, as "agonizing to shed their blood in selling supplies to the Government," but to men who should have the capacity to think rationally. Aside from the horrors and the destruction that must attend war, there is the threat to our currency in it, remarks the Boston "Herald." Those men who are seeking to bring the country to a silver basis may easily find their opportunity here. And then there is the pension list. Towards half the outlay of the Government is now devoted to the payment of pensions, with the spirit that has prevailed on this subject in the present generation, it will be difficult to put a limit to the millions that may be added to the expenditure of the Government by another war. These are the burdens of the Government exclusively. The loss to shipping and in the possible bombardment of cities and exposed ports is something that only those who know what we hazard in this respect can intelligently compute.

Dr. J. M. Louther and wife are enjoying the sea breezes at Atlantic City.

Miss Madie Critchfield, of Jenner township, is visiting friends in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Endsley, of Johnstown, spent Sunday with Somerset relatives.

Miss Sadie Schlag, of Bakersville, who has been seriously sick for the past several weeks is regaining her health.

Work on the new summer hotel has been resumed and it will be entirely completed at the opening of the season, June 1st.

Bedford county Democrats have instructed their delegates to the state convention to support Gen. A. H. Coffroth for Governor.

A telephone exchange will be established at Berlin in the near future. A number of business men of that place have subscribed for phones.

Rev. M. C. Meyers has been elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rev. J. M. Kuepper, of the Berlin Brethren Church, and will remove from Somerset to that place.

Farmer Walter Heffley last week sold one-half, 118 acres, of his valuable farm three miles north-west of Somerset to William H. Miller. Mr. Miller lives on a farm adjoining Mr. Heffley's.

A numerously signed petition is being circulated about town calling upon town council to provide a new and more commodious public building in which to store the fire apparatus and to supply quarters for the members of the fire companies.

Rev. J. A. Dunlap will preach a sermon specially prepared for the benefit of the members of the Knights of the Golden Eagle, in the Shanksville Lutheran Church, at 2:30 p. m., next Sunday. An invitation is extended to the public to be present.

Miss Margaret Barnett, daughter of Rev. J. M. Barnett, of the Markleton Sanatorium, will sail for Genoa, Italy, Saturday, where she will witness the Easter festivities. Miss Barnett will be accompanied by a number of Pittsburg friends.

Frank Granger has had a large portion of the timber and stone delivered that will be utilized in the handsome new house he will erect on the north-west corner of Main Cross and Race streets. The location is one of the most desirable about town.

Berlin council has granted a twenty-years' franchise to a local electric light company, and has agreed to pay $430 per annum for street illumination for a period of five years. Council reserves the right to purchase the plant at the expiration of five years at a price to be agreed upon by three appraisers.

Dr. A. C. Harrison, who has successfully practiced his profession in Meyersdale for the past ten years, will remove to Baltimore on April 1st. His removal will be a great loss to the medical profession of the county. Dr. Bruce Lichty, of Rockwood, has purchased Dr. Harrison's Meyersdale residence and will locate in that place.

Stoyestown Lodge of Odd Fellows held their annual banquet Friday night, at the Hite House, in that place. Guests were present from Berlin, Hooversville and Somerset. Between fifty and sixty persons, including the local ministers and the wives of many of the Odd Fellows enjoyed the repast, which all declare was the finest they ever sat down to.

Jacob Shaffer, of Hooversville, visited Johnstown last week for the purpose of undergoing a delicate surgical operation. About a year ago Mr. Shaffer met with an accident by which the sight of his left eye was destroyed. Since then the right eye has become so affected that he was threatened with the loss of the sight of that organ.

A memorial service in honor of the late Miss Frances Willard will be held in the Lutheran Church on Sunday evening, March 20th. It is safe to say that no woman in the past generation has exercised a wider influence for good than Miss Willard. Wherever she was known she was admired and respected and won a host of friends for the cause of temperance.

Monroe Knapp sawed three sticks of timber, each 45 feet long by 16 inches square, one day last week at his mill near Lavansville, and Elmer Kimmell brought them to the railroad station in this place. Two of the pieces of timber were drawn by six horses and the third by three horses. It required the united strength of eight horses to drag each of the logs to the mill.

Somerset's town council is one of the most progressive in the county. Recently when it came to electing a treasurer of the borough funds they deposed a faithful official who offered to continue in office without salary and voted a salary to his successor. It seems that the interests of the people are not consulted in more quarters than one, when it comes to appropriating public funds.

Lieutenant Chester M. Knepper, U. S. N., and Miss Helen Todhunter, will be united in marriage on Thursday, March 24th, in Baltimore, Md. The wedding will be a quiet affair and will be celebrated in one of the churches of that city. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Knepper, of this place, while the bride is a resident of Annapolis, Md. Miss Todhunter visited at the home of Mr. R. M. Linton last summer.

The three Meyersdale landlords whose applications for retail liquor dealers' licenses were held up by the court for a period of a week are happy, the Court on Friday having granted all of them. Judge Longenecker admonished the landlords to be more careful in the future saying that public houses were presumed to be conducted for the convenience of strangers and travelers, and not for the purpose of selling liquor exclusively.

Mr. Charles G. Brendle, of Lincoln township, and Miss Lillie A. Phillippi, of Jefferson township, were united in marriage on March 31, at the Lutheran parsonage, in Lavansville, Rev. C. F. Gebhart officiating. At the same time and place Mr. Leonard J. Bell, of Jenner township and Miss Sadie A. Armstrong, of Jefferson township, were joined in the bonds of wedlock by Rev. Gebhart. These popular young people have the best wishes of their many friends for a happy married life.

The two story frame dwelling house of Hiram Tedrow, near Trent, Middlecreek township, was destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon. The fire originated from a defective flue and had gained such headway before it was discovered that nothing could be done to check the course of the flames. Nearly all of the household furniture was saved. The burned building was one of the best in that locality and the loss will reach several thousand dollars; insurance not known.

Mr. A. G. Dom, of Meyersdale, a veteran of the late war, who served in the capacity of storekeeper and gauger during the Harrison administration and was dismissed without cause under the Cleveland administration, has been reinstated in his old position by Collector Fruit. There are several more Somerset county veterans who held like positions and who were unceremoniously dismissed from them under the Democratic regime who will be reinstated before many more weeks have rolled around.

The Commissioners' office has been a veritable storm centre for ten days, more angry discussion taking place in that usually quiet retreat than ever before in the history of the venerable building in which it is located. Taxpayers from various sections who feel themselves aggrieved at the commissioners on account of the percentage that has been added over and above the valuations returned by the assessors, have not been slow to express their feelings, and on one or two occasions persons passing through the corridor of the court house have imagined that a hand-to-hand encounter was going on in the commissioners' office.

"SHOWS UGLY WORK."

Auditor Sipe Was Afraid of Making the Commissioners Mad and That the Auditors' Report Would be Smothered.

SWORN STATEMENTS FILED.

Immediately following the adjournment of the Board of County Auditors and the filing of their report of the receipts and expenditures of the county for the year 1897, Peter Sipe, a member of the board, filed a petition, which was published in the "fake" organ with the caption which heads this article, and which was read in open court on Monday, February 28th. Mr. Sipe's petition is briefly as follows:

He declares that he did not agree to certain surcharges made by the auditors, and that A. J. Hileman, auditors' clerk, agreed to prepare the report showing that he disagreed to the same; that B. J. Bowman read a paper, commenting on the action of the county commissioners, to which he did not agree, and that when the report was read to the board by the clerk it did not contain the matter which had been read by B. J. Bowman; that before signing the report he asked the clerk whether it was the same that had previously been read by him to the board, and he replied that it was, with the exception of an item referring to unseated lands; that since signing the report he has discovered that it contains several matters to which he did not give his consent and concludes by asking that a rule be granted on Auditors Bowman and Rhoads and Clerk Hileman to show cause why the report should not be amended so as to conform to the facts set forth in his petition, or that his name be stricken from said report.

FLAT CONTRADICTIONS.

Friday afternoon, March 11th, F. W. Biesecker, Esq., attorney for the auditors, filed the replies of Messrs. Bowman, Rhoads and Hileman to the petition of Mr. Sipe.

B. J. BOWMAN'S ANSWER.

Auditor Bowman, in his sworn statement, says it is true that a few days prior to signing the report, Mr. Sipe disagreed as to certain surcharges—for interest on borrowed money and metallic file-cases—but on the day the report was signed nothing was said by him concerning said disagreement; that A. J. Hileman was not present at the meeting held prior to signing the report (above mentioned) and no agreement, as alleged by Mr. Sipe, was made at that time or at any subsequent time in the presence of Bowman, that Hileman was to prepare a report showing that Sipe disagreed to the above items; that he did read a paper in the presence of Mr. Sipe, a verbatim copy of which was embodied in the report, and declares it to be wholly false and untrue that Sipe refused to agree to the same, or that it should be attached to the report; that Sipe said in the presence of Bowman and other parties that he "would hold under advisement the signing of the report until after dinner;" that Sipe read all or a portion of the paper and said that by signing it he "feared it would make the commissioners mad," and that "it would not amount to anything anyhow, as the paper would be pigeon holed and never get before the public;" that Sipe voluntarily signed the report as filed without solicitation; that Clerk Hileman did not read, nor was he asked to read, the report at this time; and it is wholly false and untrue that Hileman, in response to a question asked by Sipe, whether "it was the same as had been previously read," replied that "it was;" that it is wholly false and untrue that Hileman substituted a paper for the one read to the board of auditors by Bowman; that he believes that when Sipe signed the report and the remarks attached thereto, he was fully informed as to the contents of said report and the objections and interpositions attached thereto, and fully comprehended and understood what he was signing.

JEREMIAH RHOADS' ANSWER.

Auditor Rhoads, in his sworn statement, corroborates Bowman in every essential particular, and adds that Sipe and he visited the office of Attorney Biesecker, when Sipe asked Biesecker "if it would be proper to sign such a report as Bowman had prepared and read in our presence. Mr. Biesecker replied that it would be proper if, from our investigations, the objections and criticisms contained therein were warranted by the facts. Mr. Sipe said, "O, yes; they are all true, and a great deal more," that the only objection he had was that it would "make the commissioners mad, and no one else will ever know anything about it as the commissioners would never publish it." That after dinner of said day Sipe, without solicitation upon the part of any person present, voluntarily signed the report as filed in the presence of B. J. Bowman, A. J. Hileman and himself. Mr. Rhoads concludes by saying that he "verily believes that said Peter Sipe, when he signed said report and the remarks attached thereto, was fully informed as to the contents of said report, and the objections and interpositions attached thereto, and fully comprehended and understood the same, and knew what he was signing."

CLERK HILEMAN'S ANSWER.

Auditors' Clerk, A. J. Hileman, in his sworn statement, says: "He denies, and declares to be absolutely untrue, that he agreed to prepare a report showing that said Peter Sipe disagreed to any item contained in the report of the Auditors of Somerset County for the year ending January 3, 1898. He declares to be false and absolutely untrue that portion of Peter Sipe's petition in which he says, "that the report was read to the board by the clerk, that it did not contain the matter which had been read by B. J. Bowman," and avers that he made a true and correct copy of the paper submitted by B. J. Bowman, which Peter Sipe told your affiant he had heard Mr. Bowman read and of which he (Sipe) had personally read a portion; and that said paper was embodied in the report of the county auditors by direction of the auditors. He declares to be false and absolutely untrue that portion of Peter Sipe's petition reading as follows: "That before the report was signed by the auditors the clerk was asked whether it was the same as had been previously read by him to the board and he replied that it was, with the exception of an item relating to unseated lands, etc. He avers that he never read the report to the auditors and that he was never requested to do so. Your respondent avers that the report in every respect was made out by him as directed by the auditors, it was not changed or altered in any respect, nor was any duplicity or deception practiced."

PETER SIPE SAYS "THEY ARE ALL TRUE."

Attached to the answers of the auditors is an affidavit made by F. W. Biesecker, Esq., in which he deposes that he was present when B. J. Bowman read a statement which he said he (Bowman) had prepared for the consideration of the auditors, and which he believed should be embodied in their annual report; that Auditor Rhoads agreed with Auditor Bowman that the statement read by Bowman should be made a part of their report, and that Auditor Sipe said "he would think about it until after dinner;" that Messrs. Sipe and Rhoads visited his office just before dinner of said day when Sipe asked "if it would be proper to include in the audiors' report the statement prepared and read by Bowman," to which he replied that it would be proper if, from their investigation, the criticisms and objections contained therein were warranted by the facts. Whereupon Mr. Sipe said, "Oh, yes; they are all true and a great deal more; the only objection I find is that it will make the commissioners mad, and no one else will ever know anything about it, as the commissioners will never have it published." Mr. Sipe then added, "I'll see about it until after dinner," and left my office.

Martin Lambert, of Jenner township, has taken possession of D. B. Zimmerman's Quemahoning township farm.

Recent Deaths.

After having witnessed the stirring events of almost a century, the growth of a new form of government in a new country, Samuel C. Livengood, of Salisbury, this county, died on the 5th inst., at the age of 93 years. He was a grandson of Rev. Peter Livengood, a Swiss emigrant who reached America in 1758, and was one of fifteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Livengood, all except one of whom—Mrs. Esther Glotfelty, of Accident, Md.,—are dead. Deceased always enjoyed robust health, only giving way to the ravages of age a few weeks before the end. Possessed of a liberal education and indomitable energy he probably did more than any other resident of the county to develop the mineral resources of the Elk Lick region. He was held in the warmest affection by the residents of Salisbury and Elk Lick township, all of whom bear testimony to his many excellent traits of character. He was an uncompromising Democrat and a member of the German Baptist Church.

A. J. Schell, a former well-known resident of this place, died on Saturday at his home in Connellsville, Pa., from a stroke of paralysis, resulting from an accident a few days before when he was struck by a pick. He was seventy-one years of age and was a brother of John J. and H. F. Schell, Esqs., of Somerset. He was married to Sarah, daughter of the late Samuel Pile, who survives him. He is also survived by one daughter and three sons, the sons being prominent business men of Connellsville. Mr. Schell was elected Prothonotary of this county by the Republicans and afterwards served as deputy Sheriff for six years. He was engaged in the mercantile business at Friedens for a number of years and at various times dealt largely in horses and cattle. He left Somerset about twenty years ago, going to Seattle, Washington, where he lived for ten or twelve years before returning to Connellsville, where he has since resided. A number of his Somerset relatives attended the funeral, which took place on Monday, at Connellsville.

Eli Ogline, a well-known farmer of Lincoln township, and a veteran of the war, died on Friday, aged 67 years. Death resulted from a complication of physical disorders from which he had suffered for a number of years. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, the wife of William Ferner, of Somerset township, and four sons; one of the sons, Edward, is a resident of Somerset township, while the three unmarried ones live at home. The funeral took place on Sunday when interment was made in the Lichty church cemetery, Rev. Silas Hoover officiating. Deceased was a member of the United Evangelical church.

Good Housekeepers.

Some of the best housekeepers in Somerset and vicinity use the Cinderella Stoves and Ranges and pronounce them perfect bakers. Sold by

JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM,
Somerset, Pa.

Cost of Traveling On Bad Roads.

An illustration of the comparative cost of hauling over good and bad roads is furnished by C. E. Ashburne, Jr., in the Louisville Courier Journal. The incident came under his own observation, and the roads were in Kentucky. He says:

"A machine weighing 16,000 pounds was drawn four miles on the Brock turnpike, a macadamized road. It required four mules (4,000 pounds to a mule), and one and one-half hours of time, at a cost of fifteen cents per mule per hour, or a total cost for four mules of ninety cents.

"After traveling four miles on macadamized turnpike, the route lay a little less than 2,000 feet (less than two-fifths of a mile) on a dirt road. To travel this 5,000 feet it was necessary to use ten of the best mules and seven men; and with this force it took nine hours to complete the journey. The cost was $89.80, at which rate four miles would have cost $208.08; or, in other words, $208.08 is absolutely thrown away for want of macadamized road."

New Dwelling House and Premises for Sale or Rent.

I offer for sale my new dwelling house, situate in the suburbs, known as the Harry Kifer house. Easy payments. Or in case I fail to sell will rent. House never been occupied.

CHAS. H. FISHER.

Death of "Si" Walker, Indiana County's Well-known Giant.

"Si" Walker, Indiana County's giant, died at his home in Grant Township a few days ago. He was widely known on account of his extraordinary size and great strength, and was esteemed as a man with a heart proportionate in size to his body in his neighborhood in the north-eastern part of the county.

"Si" was seven feet tall and built in proportion. He could buy no ready-made shoes large enough, and had to have all manufactured to order. It was the same with hats and gloves. As for his other clothing, it was all homemade. When he died a coffin of special size had to be procured. He was a perfect stranger to all sorts of physical ills until a few days before his death, when a small abscess appeared in his eye. The physicians could do nothing for it and his brain was soon affected, thus ending his life. He leaves a wife and five children, for whom he provided a good living by manual labor.

The White Palace.

The first class restaurant of Somerset can give you a lunch for five cents up to fifteen cents. Meals, twenty-five cents; oysters a specialty. Call and see us and you will be sure to call again.

Borough Finances.

The following extracts are taken from the annual report of the auditors of Somerset borough, filed yesterday afternoon:

Dr.

Streets and roads,	$ 707 52	
Police service,	422 25	
Street lights,	822 45	
Lockup and engine house,	59 41	
Salaries Burgess, Sec. and Treas	212 90	
Sufali settlement,	100 00	
Outstanding orders,	495 27	
Board of Health,	128 90	
Total,		$ 3001 52

Cr.

Balance carried over,	509 19	
Receipts from all sources,	3510 71	
Total,		$ 4019 90

WATER WORKS CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT. Dr.

Balance carried over,	110 46	
Received from tapping fees,	65 00	
Total,		$ 175 46
Am't paid for services and extensions,	118 04	
Balance on hand,	57 42	
Total,		$ 175 46

WATER WORKS REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Dr.

Bal. on hand last report,	$ 742 61	
Water rents,	1844 43	
Miscellaneous,	9 00	$ 2596 04

Cr.

Engineer's salary,	$ 540 00	
Fuel, repairs, etc.,	270 70	
Am't trans to s'nk'g f'nd	700 00	
Am't old orders paid,	8 53	
Balance of this fund,	1076 81	$ 2596 04

Dr.

Total am't rec. from Col's and revenue fund,		$ 3090 73

Cr.

Interest paid on bonds,	$1221 67	
State tax,	4 00	
Bond redeemed,	1000 00	
Bal. due from last report	280 96	
Bal in fund,	584 10	$ 3090 73

Dr.

Water bonds unpaid,	$ 23000 00	

A number of Quemahoning township farmers are reported to have purchased fox hounds from a peddler, and as numerous Sir Reynards are frolicking in that section, our informant suggests that County Treasurer Winters should ask for a special appropriation to pay for the large number of scalps that will be coming in from that direction.

STOP THE FARCE.

Messrs. Good and Kretchman Should Remove the Percentage Added to Valuations at the Commissioners' Office.

DISCONTINUE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE.

If there were no other reason than the objections interposed by the County Auditors to the loose and alleged unlawful system of conducting public business obtaining in the office of the County Commissioners, the manner in which the recent triennial assessment has been made and afterwards inflated, is sufficient grounds for demanding a thorough and prompt investigation of that important office.

Readers of this journal will recall that as early as six months ago the HERALD sounded a warning that valuations would be raised and taxes increased under the coming triennial assessment. Inquiry at the commissioners' office as to why this was to be done elicited the information that the revenue of the county was not sufficient to discharge the indebtedness created by the retiring board of commissioners, and that the assessors had been instructed to raise the valuation of all property taxable for county purposes to as nearly a cash basis as practicable.

The various assessors, working under their respective oaths and affirmations, conscientiously carried out the instructions received by them from the commissioners, and, as a result, raised the valuations in their respective districts from 10 to 50 per cent. In some cases the returns of the assessors were accepted by the commissioners, and in others the assessors were sent home with instructions to raise the valuations still higher. The returns of a few assessors were rejected as often as three times, or until after it appeared that they had brought the valuation up to a point satisfactory to the ideas of the commissioners.

Commissioners Kretchman and Good were unfamiliar with this particular line of their official duties, neither of them ever before having had anything to do with fixing the valuation of all property subject to county taxation, and it was only natural, therefore, that they should defer to the judgment of Commissioner Kimmell, who had previous training in that office, so it came about that an additional valuation, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. upon the return made by the assessors was levied, and, we are told, without the knowledge or consent of these two officials. It is only necessary to refer to one or two instances where this was done to convince the public that the foregoing statement is not made without authority. The percentage added to the assessor's return for the township of Jenner was first placed at 33⅓ per cent. without the knowledge or consent of Commissioner Kretchman, and, we are told, without the knowledge or consent of Commissioner Good. When Kretchman learned that the valuation of the farms of that district had been increased one-third over and above the valuation placed upon them by the assessor under oath, he entered a vigorous protest, and, as a result, the percentage was reduced 13⅓ points, still leaving it 20 per cent. over and above the valuation returned by the assessor. It is not strange, therefore, that a hard-working young farmer who recently purchased a home in that township at what was believed to be an outside price, $3,000 in payments, was surprised to find the valuation for taxable purposes raised to $3,400.

The valuation of Allegheny township was raised first 50 per cent. over and above the assessor's return, but was later reduced to 25 per cent. after Commissioners Good and Kretchman expressed their dissatisfaction.

At this point the query, "What were Commissioners Kretchman and Good doing while this was going on under their noses?" arises. The answer is that a great many things affecting the interests of the taxpayers, besides the publication of the alleged annual report of the receipts and expenditures of Somerset county for the year 1897, were done without the knowledge or consent of either of these officials.

But, even more iniquitous and unfair than the process of raising valuations, has been the method adopted at the appeals now being held. Let us again cite Jenner township. The appeal for that district was held on Friday, March 4th. Between sixty and seventy prominent farmers visited the office of the commissioners and entered a protest against the additional 20 per cent. The assessor was present, and in every case agreed that the additional 20 per cent. was unjust and unreasonable, as he had valued all of the properties in his district at as nearly a cash value as he conscientiously could do so. What was the result? The commissioners removed the percentage added by them, or in their name, from the valuation of all who attended the appeal.

In the township of Jenner there are more than 400 taxables. 75 of this number have had 20 per cent. removed from their valuations. Will the commissioners permit the percentage laid by them to remain upon the other 325? Could more damnable partiality be shown? 325 Jenner township taxables who were unable to attend the appeals, many of them on account of their poverty and the consequent expense incurred by doing so, are asked to pay a higher rate of taxation than their more fortunate and wealthier neighbors.

Where, we ask, is the justification for such unjust and unfair partiality as this? What good reason can be offered for releasing wealthy farmer A from a portion of the tax assessed against him, and collecting every cent assessed against poor farmer B?

If there was just cause to release A from the additional percentage added by the commissioners, or in their name, there are a hundred reasons why the percentage should be lifted from the shoulders of overtaxed and burdened farmer B. If there was cause shown why the additional percentage should be removed from any one of those who applied, the same cause was ample excuse for lifting it from every taxable in the township.

The same method was adopted on the appeal days for Addison, Brothersvalley, Upper and Lower Turkeyfoot, Allegheny, Berlin, Northampton, etc. Of those taxables who attended the appeals, all but an exceptional case or two, had the percentage added by the commissioners removed and in several instances the valuation was made lower than the assessor had returned the same.

Many, if not all, of those who have attended the appeals so far, have done so at great personal sacrifice and inconvenience, and since, in every case, they have secured what they came after—a reduction of their valuation—what reason can exist for carrying the farce farther? Why put the taxables of the districts yet to be heard to the expense and inconvenience of traveling to the county-seat for the purpose of having a confessedly unnecessary valuation placed upon their property removed?

Why don't Commissioners Kretchman and Good take the bull by the horns and publicly announce that they have removed the percentage added by the commissioners, or in their name, from the taxables in every district in the county? It will come to this in the end, and what reason can be assigned for compelling the already heavily-taxed citizens of the county to come from remote sections for the purpose of entering a protest which is absolutely sure to be granted.

Commissioner Kimmell's anxiety to cover up the alleged mismanagement and profligacy of his immediate predecessors should not stand in the way of securing justice to every taxpayer in the county.

Remove the additional percentage, and then, if any taxable of the county feels aggrieved at the valuation placed upon his property by the assessor who made the return of the same under oath, let him be heard, as the law directs, and grant him such relief as the circumstances justify.

The condition of the county treasury does not warrant such an immense increase in the revenue for the ensuing three years as the excessive valuation indicates. There are sufficient funds in the treasury and due the county in the way of outstanding taxes to liquidate the county indebtedness and leave a handsome balance on hand. The expenditures of the county were only one half last year of what they were under the last year of Commissioner Shober, and there is no public improvement staring the taxpayers in the face that demands increased revenue.

The time has arrived, Messrs. Good and Kretchman, for you to assert your official authority, and the people of the county expect you to do your duty. Will you do it?

Evangelical Appointments.

The Pittsburg evangelical conference elected the following delegates to the general conference at Johnstown next October: Clerical, Revs. T. J. A. Curry, J. W. Domer, J. J. Carmany, B. F. Flet and A. J. Bird; alternates, Revs. D. P. K. Lavan, F. M. Bartlett and D. S. Polling; laymen, J. B. Hammer, of Somerset district; David Lavely, of Allegheny district; Jacob Troutman, of Franklin district; J. J. Kimmel, of Somerset district; and F. P. Hetrick, of Allegheny district; alternates, Levi Lichliter, of Somerset district; J. Morrow, of Franklin district; J. N. Buzza, of Franklin district. A committee of five was appointed to draw up articles of incorporation for the conference and obtain a charter as speedily as possible. A committee of five, consisting of the presiding elder of the Somerset district, the pastor of Greensburg, the pastor of the Wilkinsburg-Pittsburg mission, and the two pastors of Johnstown, were appointed to act jointly with the conference trustees in purchasing a church site in Wilkinsburg and erecting a chapel. Appointments were made as follows:

Allegheny district, J. W. Domer, presiding elder; Armstrong, J. A. Shaffer; Brookville, P. D. Steelsmith; Blairsville, W. Haupt; Cherry Tree, G. J. Coleman; Dubois, C. D. Slaugle; Indiana, L. E. Baumgarten; Johnstown, Willow street, A. J. Bird; Johnstown, Bedford street, A. C. Miller; Johnstown, Roxbury avenue, G. C. McDowell; Johnstown, Linden avenue, F. W. Ware; Johnstown, Nineteenth ward, J. Garner; Mechanicsburg, D. R. Miller; Marchland, W. H. Cramer; Troutville S. M. Cousins; Worthville and Heathville, J. L. Mull; Westover, J. G. Wise.

Franklin district, J. J. Garmany, presiding elder; Alum Rock, S. B. Bohland; Barkeysville, David Berkey; Clarendon, B. F. Felt; Crawford, A. B. Day; Dempseytown, W. W. Elrick; Erie, to be supplied; Franklin, A. J. Beale; Hawthorne, D. J. Hershberger, Liekingville, G. W. Finnacy; McKean, S. V. Carmany; Oil City, C. A. Mock; Shenango, J. H. Boozer; Salem, M. E. Berger; Venango, S. Millikron; Red Bank, D. M. Baumgardner.

Somerset district, J. O. A. Curry, presiding elder; Bedford, C. E. McCauley; Cambria, P. Berkley; Claridge, T. I. Bartlett; Conemaugh, G. W. Imboden; Fairview, H. M. Cook; Glencoe, J. C. Powell; Greensburg, W. E. Rixhel; Hyndman, W. A. Renninger; Indian Creek, M. V. Devaux; Jennertown, C. H. Stewart; Juniata, H. B. Saese; Ligonier, D. L. Yoder; Morgan, A. F. Berkley; Mt. Pleasant, S. H. Bartlett; Wilkinsburg-Pittsburg, F. W. Bartlett; Salisbury and Rockwood, F. E. Hetrick; Somerset, D. P. K. Lavan; South Fork, F. D. Ellenberger.

A Hint to Ladies.

Delicate cakes and puddings can be baked successfully in the Cinderella Stoves and Ranges. The large high oven insures uniform baking and no burning on the top. Sold and guaranteed by

JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM,
Somerset, Pa.

Civil Court List.

Only two out of eighteen civil cases set for trial last week reached the stage where a jury was called to determine the issue, all of the others having been either settled or continued. The first case tried was an ejectment suit entered by Mary Fees, Annie Gebhart and John Wideman, guardian of the children of Rose Ann Gebhart vs. John A. Louther and The Wilmore Coal Company, for the recovery of a tract of land situate in Paint township, Somerset county, and Richland township, Cambria county. After a number of witnesses had been examined the Court directed the jury to return a verdict in favor of the defendants.

The second case called was that of R. M. Zahnizer et al. vs. C. S. Vannear, an action brought to recover for material furnished in the construction of the Hotel Vannear. Before all of the testimony was heard the parties concerned agreed to a compromise.

After We Move.

We hope when in Pittsburg, Pa., you'll make it convenient to visit the wholesale grocery of W. K. Gillespie, now on Seventh Ave. After March 10 we expect to be in our new home, corner of 9th and Duquesne Way. Drop in to see us.

Marriage Licenses.

Charles E. Baldwin, Stonycreek.
Amanda Miller, Upper Turkeyfoot.

David Cronnin, Confluence borough.
Lizzie Lenhart, Confluence borough.

Harvey J. Baughman, Berlin borough.
Mamie P. Fritz, Brothersvalley.

Mahlon Crissey, Hooversville borough.
Edith Swank, Quemahoning.

Richard Brown, Benson borough.
Sarah Meyers, Benson borough.

Samuel J. Loar, Fayette county.
Mary E. Patterson, Westmoreland Co.

Albert Bonheimer, Summit.
Maggie Hauger, Summit.

Lloyd L. Mountain, Confluence boro.
Mary G. Grof, Meyersdale borough.

Wm. G. Smith, Fayette county.
Sarah Morrison, Upper Turkeyfoot.

Jeremiah H. Glotfelty, Garrett Co., Md.
Salome B. Folk, Elk Lick.

Robert P. Walker, Elk Lick.
Helen McKenzie, Salisbury borough.

Jessie H. Laney, Paint.
Mable Donahue, Paint.

John J. Blough, Conemaugh.
Mary S. Thomas, Conemaugh.

Edward Stutzman, Somerset.
Mollie Fritz, Somerset.

Ross O. Bruner, Milford.
Laura Christner, Milford.

Franklin E. Hetrick, Salisbury boro.
Mary L. Baumgardner, Indiana Co.

William Seggie, Summit.
Mary Stinel, Summit.

Chas. G. Brendle, Lincoln.
Tillie A. Phillippi, Jefferson.

Leonard J. Bell, Jenner.
Sadie C. Armstrong, Jefferson.

Chas. W. Kocher, Meyersdale borough.
Ida Meese, Meyersdale borough.

Wm. H. Smeaman, Salisbury borough.
Laura Johns, Salisbury borough.

Franklin Wissinger, Cambria county.
Lizzie A. Hershberger, Conemaugh.

Harvey J. Brant, Stonycreek.
Mary J. Will, Stonycreek.

Richard Oughton Brown, Somerset.
Sarah Jane Lowry, Somerset.

Harry Smith, Berlin borough.
Mary E. Schrock, Berlin borough.

Daniel W. Hutzell, Summit.
Sarah M. Ohler, Larimer.

George Stein, Meyersdale borough.
Agnes Murray, Elk Lick.

Country Boys Look Here.

Country boys and likewise countrymen should get a Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette watch. Five new subscriptions to the Weekly Commercial Gazette, accompanied by the subscription price $5.00, secures the watch.

It is a nickel, stem-winding watch, famous as a timekeeper, and is guaranteed for one year. No newspaper or periodical ever offered as fine a premium.

Two new subscriptions to the Daily for a year, four for six months and six for four months will also get the watch.

It is not a toy for children, but a serviceable timekeeper that a man can carry with satisfaction.

Send the subscriptions with the money to the Commercial Gazette office and you will get the watch by return mail.

TURN ON THE LIGHT.

Commissioners Withdraw Their Objections to the Auditors' Report.

OBJECTIONS PERMITTED TO STAND.

During the session of court held Friday afternoon F. W. Biesecker, Esq., called up the petition of the County Auditors asking that they be granted permission to correct the clerical errors contained in their report of the receipts and expenditures of Somerset county for the year 1897; when, no objection being offered, the Court ordered that the corrections asked for be made.

More or less disappointment was expressed that Commissioner Geo. F. Kimmell, through his private counsel, did not resist the petition, since he alone appears to have been responsible for the libelous attack on the auditors, contained in the Commissioners' published report