The Somerset Herald.

GEORGE R. SCULL, Editor.

THURSDAY March 29, 1898.

An entertainment by home talent is to be given on Saturday night at the Opera House.

The Cambria county court last week refused to install liquor dealers' licenses granted by the Johnstown Democrat a paper in the Johnstown Democrat a paper in that place when the bars were opened to the public on Monday.

A bold robbery, the victims of which were an aged couple, near Erie, Pa., occurred Friday night. The residence of Thomas Beaman, aged 70, and his wife, aged the same age, near State Line, was entered by three masked men, who bound the aged couple until they divulged the hiding place of their money, about $50, which was stolen.

The Grange of Fayette county has ensued suit against the County Commissioners of that county to recover his fees for a number of inquests which he has held. He claims that many of the inquests were turned down were necessary, and he was compelled by his oath of office to hold them.

John Gray, who was convicted of the murder of Mrs. McCrea in Westmoreland County and afterward released on a technical that he was not the guilty man, is being urged by his friends to ask the State to reimburse him for the five years he spent in the Western Penitentiary. Mr. Gray, who is now at Pittsburg, is considering the plan. He thinks he is entitled to the money.

The Pennsylvania fish commission, at a meeting in Philadelphia Friday announced that it is ready to receive and consider applications for trout fry. It also announced that, in consequence of the State Legislature failed to make any appropriation for fish culture work, there will be no applications received or filled for any species of fish other than trout; that it has only enough fry to make distribution of trout through the generosity of citizens who have collected money for hatching work and the maintenance of the stations.

Ten thousand demons gnawing away at one's chain couldn't be much worse than the torments of itching piles. Yet there is a cure. Doan's Ointment never fails.

On Sunday, the 21st, the sun entered the vernal point of Aries, and the days and nights were of equal length, sunrise at 6 and sunset at 6. This occurs but twice in the year, in what is called the spring or vernal equinox, and again in the fall or autumnal equinox. These semi-annual storms are usually accompanied by rain of more or less severity, but they will always come on the exact day fixed by the calendar for the attainment of the sun to the equinoctial circle. They are more frequently a short time before or after.

Within three years there will not be a grade crossing on the entire Pennsylvania railroad between Pittsburg and New York. This is the latest declaration from those who are in position to know what they are talking about. It is a declaration which means not only the elimination of road crossing on grades, but carrying of foot crossings at stations under the tracks by means of subways. Already a number of such subways have been constructed on the main line between Pittsburg and Harrisburg, and it is understood that the company will prepare plans for more of them right away. The tangle at Blairsville intersection does not with one of the most dangerous grade crossings, and another at Tyrone for absolute safety at the platform.

In Stonycreek township, Clearfield county, is a midnight of the court house. Within the borders of this township there is not a church, school, saloon, store, a two-story house, a minister, justice, school teacher, doctor, lawyer, carpenter or blacksmith of any kind. There is not a single-room house, blacksmith shop, post-office or, in fact, any business place aside from "Big Spring." Since Pine township was erected not one resident thereof has ever figured in a criminal action; no one has ever held office and none have served on a jury. Pine is rich in natural resources; its hid lies wealth can not be estimated and its mountain scenery can be equaled in the state, to say nothing of its rattlesnakes and huckleberries.—Ochranton Times.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup seems specially adapted to the needs of the season. Pleasant to take; soothing in its influence. It is the remedy of all ills for every form of throat and lung disease.

Rev. A. A. Barker, of Ebensburg, died suddenly in Altoona Friday afternoon of apoplexy, aged 83 years. He went there to receive medical treatment. He was a prominent figure in the early politics of western Pennsylvania. A personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, he stood at the latter's right and held an umbrella over his head when he was inaugurated to the presidency. He and Neal Dow were contemporaries in New England, and to his teachings are attributed the strong convictions of Barker on the liquor question. He had been a very active Prohibitionist. He leaves a large estate. Hugh A. V. Barker, of Cambria county, is one. Other sons in Ebensburg are T. A. F. H. and C. H. Barker. Deceased took an active part in the civil war, and served two terms in congress during the reconstruction days. He was prominent in Masonic, Odd Fellow and other orders.

Dr. B. H. Warren, the State Zoologist, has written to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson resigning his office. Dr. Warren was appointed zoologist by Governor Hastings immediately upon the reorganization of the State Board several years ago. During the late campaign for the selection of delegates to the State convention Dr. Warren took a conspicuous part in behalf of the Quay ticket in Chester county. The salary of the office is $2,500 per annum, together with traveling expenses. In his letter to Secretary Edge, Dr. Warren says that Governor Hastings on the day of his departure for the Pacific coast, directed a mutual friend to interview him and request that he support the anti-McCauley delegates to the State convention. This, he adds, he declined to do. He concludes as follows: "Any attitude seems to be at variance with what Governor Hastings desires, and I believe he should be surrounded by officials who will be in full accord with his political views. I, to day, sever official connection with your department and shall esteem it a favor if you will kindly, at your earliest convenience, communicate this to the Governor, whom I shall thank most cordially for the many courtesies extended during my connection with his administration.

The Superior Court, sitting at Harrisburg on Monday handed down an opinion that will be of general interest to families throughout the State.

In the case of William Price, a constable, against the county of Lancaster, the questions raised were, first, can a constable legally claim circular mileage for executing a warrant and serving the subpoenas; and, second, can he recover fifty cents for subpoenaing each witness. Judge Pelton, who wrote the opinion in the case, decides that the plaintiff is only entitled to be paid mileage one way at the rate of ten cents a mile, and that for serving subpoenas the constables may, for each person named in the process and actually served, legally charge fifty cents. The Court says: "To hold that the officer shall be given only the same in every case for serving the parties named in the subpoena would produce inequality and injustice and often subject him to the temptation to shirk the full performance of his duty. Practically he serves the writ every time he reads it to a witness. The trouble and labor is the same as if he had a separate subpoena for each person named." In this case judgment was entered for the plaintiff and against the county.

Congressman Hicks has secured an increased pension of $17 per month from January 22, 1897, for William F. Blair, of Stoyestown.

The Co-operative Mutual Insurance Co., recently chartered by the State Insurance Department, was organized yesterday afternoon at the law office of President W. H. Ruppel.

Mr. Chauncey Berkey, of Ligonier, and Miss Mollie Johnson, of Cook township, Westmoreland county, were married in this place on March 18th by Esquire Noah Casebeer.

The residence of Wm. Lape, in Stonycreek township, was recently consumed by fire. Lape is unmarried and lived alone. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective flue.

Mr. Harry Smith and Miss Mary E. Schrock, both of Berlin, were united in marriage on Sunday, 13th inst., at the residence of the officiating clergyman, Rev. H. N. Cameron, in this place.

Mr. Rose G. Bruner and Miss Laura Christner, both of Milford township, were united in marriage at the Lutheran parsonage, in New Centreville, on Sunday, March 6th, A. B. Miller officiating.

Mrs. Fred Brant, aged 70 years, died at the home of her son-in-law, A. J. Cober, in Brothersvalley township, Tuesday night, 15th inst. Deceased was visiting at the home of Mr. Cober where she contracted pneumonia.

At the drawing of Jurors for the May term of United States District Court in Pittsburg on Saturday, the name of William H. Tayman, of Lavansville, was found among the grand jurors, and Henry Heffley's, of Somerset, among the petit jurors.

Rev. T. J. Bristow has resigned the charge of the Somerset Presbyterian Church and will request the presbytery of Redstone to release him from the same. After April 1st his address will be New Brighton, Pa. On Sunday evening Rev. Bristow will preach in the Reformed Church.

As appears by a public notice elsewhere in this paper, the firm of J. D. Miller & Son, at Rockwood, has been dissolved by mutual consent, the junior member having disposed of his interest to his brother, J. M. Miller. J. W., or "Tim," as he is best known among his friends, will open a gentlemen's furnishing store in Pittsburg, where if taste and hustling qualities count for anything he will meet with success.

In looking over some old church records recently, Wm. H. Ruppel, Esq., made the interesting discovery that on Sunday morning, September 25, 1836, the Rev. Haverstick held his first communion session in the Lutheran church at Somerset, and in the administration of the holy ordinance he was assisted by Rev. Daniel Heilig, of Preston county, Va. About seventy-five persons participated. The services were attended by Gov. Ritner and the Secretary of State, Mr. Burroughs, who were visiting here at that time.

In the alleged production of those two learned collaborators—Shober and Kimmell—which appeared in the "fake" journal last week, the following occurs:

"This is the Scull theory upon which the hypothesis of eternal Scull supremacy is based; of which the great nebular hypothesis is but a feeble imitation; and compared with which the theory of Copernicus becomes an *obvious* conglomerated unintelligible absurdity."

Excuse our Chinese, but what a Shoberism? We can imagine George winking his other eye, when his collaborator read the above to him, poking him in the short ribs and saying: "Sammy, if that don't mean increased valuation, I don't know what it does mean. The drinks are on you. Cider for two!"

Adams county Democrats have declared for General Coffroth for Governor, which moves the Pittsburg Leader to suggest that "your uncle Aleck" has reached an age when he had better devote his time to meditation and prayer rather than chasing rainbows. We beg to inform the Leader that General Coffroth is the youngest old man in Pennsylvania and possesses more vigor and courage than all of the other candidates who have been mentioned for the Democratic nomination. The HERALD will do everything in its power to encompass the General's defeat should he secure the nomination, but at the same time it will not permit him to be retired at an age when he is in the full enjoyment of his physical and intellectual powers.

A Jennertown, Somerset County, correspondent tells us of a boy preacher of that community who has been attracting widespread attention during the past few weeks. He is twelve years old and his name is Eddie Witt, being a son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Witt. It is said that at the age of six or seven the lad could be seen going to the orchard with a Bible and hymn book and attempting to preach before he was able to read. His first effort in the pulpit was made at eleven, our informant says, and at a series of meetings conducted for the past few weeks at Jennertown the boy preached several sermons. Immense crowds were attracted and his hearers are said to have been deeply impressed with the power and eloquence of the youthful preacher. —Johnstown Tribune.

Mrs. Rosie Coleman, aged 61 years, died on Thursday morning between the hours of eight and nine o'clock at the home of her son-in-law, Mr. Frank B. Weimer, on Main Cross street. Deceased's maiden name was Miller, and she was born in Jenner township. When a young woman she was married to Hiram Coleman, of Somerset township, and to them were born the following named children, all of whom survive: Mrs. Barnes, of California; Mrs. I. D. Leydig, of Glencoe, this county; Mrs. Frank B. Weimer, at whose home she died, and Charles, a young farmer of Somerset township. Mrs. Coleman was widely known throughout the county and was highly esteemed by all of her acquaintances. She was a consistent member of the Lutheran church. When her husband died 32 years ago he was buried in his wedding clothes, and when Mrs. Coleman was interred Saturday afternoon she was clad in her wedding gown.

Rev. Mark A. Collins, of Berlin, will go to England to serve as the pastor of the Disciple church in the town of Chester. Several days ago, says the Berlin Record, Mr. Collins received a letter from Chester asking him if he would accept a call, and upon replying in the affirmative he received a cablegram to come at once. He leaves Monday 28th for New York and next day will board the Cunard liner Aurania for the Atlantic trip. Mr. Collins has been to Chester and he informs us it is a picturesque town of 33,000 population and was one of the old Roman towns, portions of the Roman walls still remaining. Among other scenes of interest is Hawarden castle, Gladstone's private residence, which is situated outside but within view of the town. The congregation numbers about four hundred members and Mr. Collins is to be congratulated upon his accession to so desirable a pastorate.

Mr. Charles R. Sanner, of Black township, who has been a reader of the HERALD for nearly a half century, spent several hours in this office Thursday afternoon. The history of his early struggles is an interesting one. When thirty-two years of age he had had only two months' schooling, his services having been required on the farm. His father died about this time and Charles decided to buy the old homestead, he having accumulated $300 with which he made the first payment. In the course of time he purchased the interest of the other heirs and for many years he has owned the place himself. The farm is one of the best in the county, underlaid with coal and lime stone, and has three large sugar orchards on it. Mr. Sanner has been too busy looking after his other interests to pay much attention to sugar-making, and as a result only makes about 1,000 pounds of maple sugar a year. His home is one of the most hospitable in the county as hundreds of people living in Somerset and Rockwood can testify.

A SHAMEFUL RECORD

Cited by Commissioners Shober and Kimmel Under Fire of Taxpayers for Profligacy and Mismanagement.

WILL STAND AND FALL TOGETHER.

The hot shot fired at Commissioners Shober and Kimmell by the press of the county has finally driven those amiable gentlemen from the bushes, and, in the last issue of the "fake" organ their names appear under an article containing an appeal to the citizens of the county who were induced to vote for them under the mistaken impression that they were tax reformers and would stand as a barrier between the taxpayers and the sharks whom they charged with having preyed upon the county treasury, to stand by them. They assert that the censure that has been poured upon them by an outraged public emanates from parties having political axes to grind, apparently failing to realize that the taxpayers of the county have declared a determined warfare on sham reformers, and have resolved to secure a more wise and economical management of public affairs in the future.

Could anything be more grotesque than their claim that taxation has been systematically coming down since the day they assumed the duties of the commissioners' office? They might with as much propriety charge the honest taxables of Somerset and Milford townships with being responsible for "the crime of '73" as to ask them to believe such an utterly absurd and preposterous proposition. The county tax assessed in both of these districts in 1896 was considerably less than the tax assessed in the same districts in 1896, and if the assessors' triennial return just made remains undisturbed and the county millage remains the same as in the years mentioned, the tax collectors of Somerset and Milford will demand almost twice as much as they did in 1895.

Taxpayers in other districts, who have been compelled to exercise beggarly economy during the past ten years in order to supply bread for their families, are in position to answer whether their taxes have been as systematically reduced by the alleged parsimonious and close-fisted administration of Shober and Kimmell as they were in the districts in which these distinguished reformers have their homes.

With the blindness of unsexed advocates of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one, they quote a lot of statistics, just as interested parties did two years ago, when they attempted to make the farmers believe that the price of silver and the price of wheat had gone hand in hand ever since the dawn of creation, whereas the figures they quote show that taxes have gradually advanced from year to year since Messrs. Shober and Kimmell have been in a position to manipulate the valuations and taxes.

VALUATIONS INCREASED ON DEPRECIATED LANDS.

Is it possible that two such gifted business men and tax reformers are ignorant of the fact that farming lands throughout Somerset county have depreciated to an alarming extent during the past ten years, and that a majority of the timber lands have been reduced to barren wastes? Do they advocate a policy of increasing taxation on depreciating real estate? Their argument would indicate that they favor such an unfair and inexcusable measure.

This, however, has no bearing on the question of the profligate expenditure that characterized the regime of these officials. No public improvements effected under their administration are pointed out, save a new roof put on the county jail at a cost of some few hundreds of dollars, while they maintain a discreet silence in regard to the $5,000 expended for expensive and unnecessary file cases for certain public offices.

DISPROVED BY THE RECORD.

The statement that they were confronted by an empty treasury and a bonded indebtedness of $15,500 when they assumed the duties of office in 1891, is not warranted by the records, which show that there was a cash balance in the treasury of some $2,000 and available assets in the shape of outstanding taxes amounting to $17,000. The reflection cast upon their immediate predecessors is unwarranted by the facts since they utilized a portion of the funds in the treasury to redeem county bonds bearing interest and wisely called in one or more of the bonds having the greatest length of time to run. A special tax had been levied by order of court for the purpose of securing the payment of the interest and principal of the bonds, and Messrs. Williamson, Wagner and Neff left the treasury in such splendid condition that continued wise and economical management would have cancelled the entire county indebtedness in one or two years. The special tax was dropped for some reason which does not appear and county bonds aggregating $4,500 remain unpaid. Neither Mr. Shober or Mr. Kimmell will argue that these bonds can be redeemed, or the interest paid on them, with taxes assessed and collected for purely county purposes. Where did the money come from to redeem the difference in the bonded indebtedness left by Messrs. Williamson, Wagner and Neff and as it exists to-day? Were temporary loans made at six per cent. interest—to which must be added the treasurer's commission—for the purpose of redeeming bonds bearing 4 per cent. interest?

The statement attributed to the county solicitor, that he has been obstructed in bringing the surcharges made by the county auditors into court is entirely gratuitous, since in no possible way could the auditors interfere with a prompt disposal of this matter, which a majority of the boards of commissioners and auditors have expressed a desire to have speedily determined by the proper authority in order that the Commissioners may know just where they stand in regard to making temporary loans and paying interest on orders issued by their immediate predecessors.

REBATES SOWN BROADCAST.

As to rebates having been granted to favorites of Commissioners, the assessor of one of the largest, most populous and wealthiest districts in the county, tells us that during his six or seven years tenure in office he was never notified but upon one occasion to appear at the commissioners' office to meet a taxable who felt aggrieved at the valuation placed upon his land, while it is susceptible of proof that a large number of rebates were issued to taxables residing in his district without the knowledge of the assessor. From Meyersdale comes the report that a taxable of that town received a rebate without solicitation from the hands of a Commissioner, and the same object of the commissioner's bounty appealed to a member of the present board for the same liberal treatment.

BRIBE SCORNED BY GABRIEL GOOD.

Messrs. Shober and Kimmell confess that they have contracted for bridges "privately whenever we found private letting the most profitable." No doubt about it in the world. Commissioners Good and Kretchman say that they were invited to take a junketing trip across the state a short time after they were elected to office, and were promised that the trip would not cost them a cent. Mr. Good declared that he "could not be bribed in that way," and neither he nor Mr. Kretchman accepted the invitation. Other county officials and attaches of the commissioners' office did. It is not at all singular therefore that the county commissioners condemned a bill presented at the recent session of the legislature providing that all contracts for bridge work should be let to the lowest bidder.

Messrs. Shober and Kimmell declare that they succeeded in purchasing iron bridges one third cheaper than ever before in the history of the county, they declare that they purchased records used in their office at less than one-half the price paid by their predecessors, and other supplies in the same proportion.

Having purchased bridges and other materials used by the county from 33⅓ to 75 per cent. cheaper than their predecessors, the question comes back from the taxpayers: "What did you do with the county funds?"

Contrast the condition of the county finances when Messrs. Shober and Kimmell assumed office in 1891 with the conditions confronting the present board when they assumed the duties of office in 1897.

As previously stated Messrs. Williamson, Wagner and Neff left a cash balance of some $2,000 in the treasury, with assets sufficient to meet the liabilities, after they had expended $25,000 for the new county jail and some $6,000 for new bridges during their last year in office.

LEFT A HOLE IN THE TREASURY.

Reference to the Commissioners' report of the receipts and expenditures of Somerset county for the year 1896 shows that the former reached $90,000.39, about five thousand dollars less than the year the new jail was erected, while the expenditures were put down at the appalling sum of $96,748.35, showing a deficit of $747.96 for the year. The bonded indebtedness was stated to be $4,000 and the current indebtedness as shown by orders issued and bills filed, was stated to be $17,953.95 or an alleged total county indebtedness of $21,953.95, to meet which the report showed assets in the shape of outstanding taxes amounting to $21,085.63, leaving a net deficit of $867.32, which, the Commissioners significantly add in a foot note, will be largely increased by commissions, exonerations, rebates, etc.

After publishing the report of the condition of the finances of the county as they appeared when they assumed the duties of the Commissioners' office on the first Monday of January 1897, Commissioners Kimmell, Good and Kretchman have found the county indebtedness contracted by their immediate predecessors to be largely in excess of the amount published in their report for 1896. Outstanding orders and bills, we are reliably informed, calling for thousands of dollars, were not apparent until some time after the present board of commissioners were in office.

Mr. Kimmell was defeated for re-election in 1893, and was therefore not responsible for what transpired in the commissioners' office during 1894, 1895 and 1896, but it appears that he wishes to bear a portion of the burden, since he has declared to the present board that they "should take care of the old board."

Has Shober got a cinch on Kimmell?

A Beautiful Service.

On last Sunday evening all the regular services of the churches gave way to join in a memorial service to Miss Frances E. Willard, in the Evangelical Lutheran church. A quarter of an hour before the time for opening all seats were filled and the ushers were carrying in benches and chairs for the aisles. Many people stood, many more went away. One of the needs of Somerset is a hall large enough for occasions.

The church was beautifully decorated with a profusion of white flowers mingled with bows of "The White Ribbon." A picture of Miss Willard was draped in white over the rostrum, and on it an empty chair was beautifully draped and decorated.

The choir rendered an appropriate anthem, and Miss Shafer and Mrs. Platt sang a beautiful duet. Rev. Hoover read a psalm, and Mr. Vogel lead in an appropriate and fitting prayer. After singing "Lead, Kindly Light," one of Miss Willard's favorite hymns, Rev. King gave one of his characteristic and suggestive talks on "The Place Miss Willard Holds in the Heart." "Others," he said, "had been great, but gratitude did not crown them, nor strew in their pathway, nor cover their graves with a profusion of flowers." Rev. Cameron spoke touchingly and beautifully on the last words of Miss Willard: "How beautiful to be with God!" He laid stress on the thought that life is not reckoned by the number of years of our lives, but by the noblness of our thoughts, words and deeds. Rev. Mullendore spoke of some of the achievements of Miss Willard.

On the whole we think the service was timely, enjoyable and profitable. One comes from such a meeting braced with a strengthened purpose, and with the belief that the world, after all, is better than we know. If it does not heed the words of its prophets, it has heard them, and worships the truth it has not the courage to live. One feels more the truth of the apology Christ offers not only for his disciples but for us all: "The spirit, indeed, is willing, but the flesh is weak." When one can feel the justice of this apology for human weakness, then one can work with something of the Master's marvelous faith.

There is one thing harder than death, and that is to be forgotten. How many crumbling monuments, from the huge pyramids and obelisks of Egypt to the rough stone set up over the lonely grave where love has wept and wrought, testify to our love to be remembered. Christ was human enough to long to be remembered. "Do this in memory of me." One need not long to be remembered by a world that could forget Christ. Jesus would not trust his memory to treacherous blocks of granite; these grow dumb with age; or, if they speak, they speak in an unknown tongue, and give us the sound of an empty name. Jesus wrote his epitaph on human hearts, and now these speak in the universal tongue—love. Jesus saw the world's need of a Savior, gave himself to be that Savior, and the world can not forget him. Frances Willard was one of the really great disciples of Christ. She saw that the "race needed mothering," gave herself to the work, and the world will not forget her. We have had no better examples of late of the greatness of a servant, nor a better illustration of the truth that the way to be remembered is to be forgetful of self.

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.

Will be a Candidate.

EDITOR HERALD:—

I wish to announce to the Republican voters of the county, through your columns, that I will be a candidate for the Assembly at the regular Republican primary election, and will register my name for announcement with the County Chairman in due time.

Very Respectfully,

Rockwood, Pa., March 21, 1898. E. D. MILLER.

No Necessity of Being Blind or Deaf.

Modern science restores the ear to healthfulness in hundreds of cases which in the past have been considered incurable.

Putting off the necessary treatment causes serious damage in hundreds of cases which might be wholly restored.

In 1877 Miss Annie Rolfe, 257 Forty-fifth St., Pittsburgh, came under the treatment of Dr. Sadler, 804 Penn Ave., for a polypus and discharge from the ear.

The condition was perfectly cured, and in 1897, she expressed, unsolicited, her great satisfaction for the perfect cure that had lasted so many years, and will be glad to answer any who may desire to communicate with her. From the first of the year, Dr. Sadler has associated with him an eminent European physician, Dr. A. Sigmann, of the University of Vienna, Austria, who has had an extensive experience in all the very latest knowledge relating to medicine, and all who consult Drs. Sadler & Sigmann will get the benefit of their combined skill and experience, the best known to this age of progress.

"Seventy Seven." "77."

"77" is Dr. Humphreys' famous Specific for the cure of Grip, Colds, and the prevention of Pneumonia. All druggists—25c.

VICTORY ASSURED.

Commissioner Kimmell "Comes off the Perch" and Promises Taxes Will Not Be Increased this Year.

REAL ESTATE DOWN—TAXES UP.

The stupid scheme hatched in the office of the county commissioners, responsibility for which must rest upon the shoulders of Geo. F. Kimmell, of inflating the valuation of all property subject to county taxation, has been halted by the exposure made through the columns of the HERALD, and the grateful assurance that taxation will not be increased now comes from the commissioners' office.

What object Commissioner Kimmell had in view, when he declined to accept the returns of various assessors, who were sworn to value the taxable property in their respective districts at such rates as they believed they would sell at a bona fide sale, until after they had materially increased the valuations originally returned, must remain a matter of conjecture. And the object of the same official in adding 10, 20, or 30 per cent. to the valuations conscientiously returned by the assessors must also remain a matter of conjecture. That both were done has been amply demonstrated during the past two weeks by hundreds of angry taxpayers who have visited Somerset at great personal expense and inconvenience for the purpose of protesting against the arbitrary action of the Commissioners' office.

The valuations returned by the assessors who made the triennial assessment for 1898 aggregate over $11,000,000, or $1,500,000 more than ever before was returned in the county. But in view of this tremendous increase Commissioner Kimmell added from 10 to 20 per cent. additional in nearly every district, thus swelling the total county valuation to over $12,000,000. This was done too with a full knowledge of the fact that farming lands have greatly depreciated in value in every district in the county. It is, therefore, not surprising that hundreds of farmers woke up to find that their taxable property had been assessed at a figure largely in advance of its actual value and far in advance of its cost.

Aggrieved taxables have visited the commissioners' office in great numbers for the purpose of appealing from the valuation placed upon their property, and in every instance the percentage added by the commissioners has been removed, and in a great many instances the valuations returned by the assessors have been materially reduced.

Could a greater farce and outrage be conceived. In the first place the taxpayers of the county were put to additional and unnecessary expense in order to have the assessors inflate valuations, and afterwards they were compelled to come to Somerset at personal expense and inconvenience for the purpose of securing the rights accorded them under the laws of the State. Hundreds of taxables would have remained at home, satisfied to pay tax on the valuation assessed against their property by the assessors, but when they found that Commissioner Kimmell had placed an additional burden upon them they were righteously indignant and their vigorous protests reverberated throughout the temple of justice.

That Commissioner Kimmell has not been insensible to the indignation he has created throughout the county by his official officiousness, is manifest by a card he has published addressed "To the Taxables of Somerset County," in which he says: "There is no necessity for an increase of taxes and there will be no increase, and it was never intended there should be."

In the name of high heaven, what was intended? Why were assessors urged to raise valuations after they had made their sworn returns? Why was an additional percentage added to the assessors' returns? Did Commissioner Kimmell hope to increase his reputation as a tax reformer by raising the valuation on depreciating property, or did he propose to hoodwink the taxables by swelling valuations and reducing the county millage.

Mr. Kimmell admits that the county receipts last year were more than sufficient to meet the expenditures, and adds that there is no necessity for increased revenue in 1898 and more will not be levied. He has also acceded to the HERALD'S demand and promises to remove the percentage in all districts where the same were added in the commissioners' office, without compelling taxpayers to visit the county seat for the purpose of protesting against the same.

The truth of the matter is that Commissioner Kimmell has been playing a bunco game, and now that he has been exposed, he has no excuse to offer for his over zealousness, unless he hugs the delusion that the taxpayers will not criticise his next annual itemized bill for services when they see the number of days he has charged the county for "attending appeals."

Another inconsistency on the part of Commissioner Kimmell is illustrated by his conduct in regard to the assessment of his home district of Milford. When Assessor Critchfield made his return Mr. Kimmell declined to accept it and indicated with a pencil, after the name of a few, if not all of the taxables of that district, the sums which he thought they should be assessed. Assessor Critchfield declared that he had made his return under oath and would not raise the valuations of his constituents higher than he conscientiously believed they should be. Mr. Kimmell insisted that he should take his report home with him and volunteered the information that he would be liberally compensated for the trouble he would be at in increasing the valuations suggested. Assessor Critchfield was obdurate and left his report at the Commissioners' office as originally made out. An appeal day was fixed for the taxables of Mother Milford to be heard. A number of them came to Somerset on the day advertised, only to find that the notification slips had never been forwarded to the Assessor and that none of the taxables of the township had official knowledge of the valuation placed upon their property. Milford will be heard from another day.

What motive prompted Commissioner Kimmell to urge a higher valuation on his old friends and neighbors than the assessor returned under oath? What reason can he assign for wishing the assessor to assume responsibility which he was unwilling to take upon himself? And in the end why was he willing to see an additional percentage placed upon his neighbors and friends in the adjoining townships, which he has so far failed to place upon the farmers of good old Mother Milford?

We indulge the hope that Mr. Kimmell will religiously keep his promise to keep taxes as low as they were last year, and we congratulate the taxables of the county upon the victory won in their name by the HERALD.

Household Economy.

One of the strong points of the Cinderella Range is its cleanliness and economy. It has an extra deep ash pit, with bailed ash pan, and is so constructed that the ashes cannot accumulate under the grate, which is the chief cause of so many grates burning out. Sold and guaranteed by

JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM, Somerset, Pa.

Mrs. Jane Tissue, of Connelsville, Friday walked from the home of her daughter, Mrs. R. C. Brown, down to Point Rocks, a deep hole in the Youghiogheny, and walked out into the high and muddy water till she got beyond her depth and drowned. The body was recovered. Her husband died eight months ago and since that time her mind had been affected.

For first class Ice Cream by the plate, pint, quart or gallon, call at the White Palace Restaurant Saturday nights.

A SAMPLE OF SHOBERISM.

Itemized Account of a Tax Reformer.

The itemized account of S. U. Shober, county commissioner, for services rendered the county during the year 1896, which is herewith presented, will prove interesting and instructive reading for the taxpayers of the county. It will be observed that Mr. Shober felt it incumbent upon himself to attend not only the regular sessions of court, but he charged the county $3.50 per day for attending adjourned and special courts. How his presence could facilitate the transaction of court business, taxpayers must judge. Mr. Shober devoted a considerable portion of his time to "revising pinks," but fails to state whether he examined taxpayers for pink-eye, or inspected the annual sworn returns made by taxables of money at interest, subject to State taxation, which were made out on pink-tinted paper. The fact that Mr. Shober charged the taxpayers for meals and lodging while in Pittsburg during the Exposition, and incidentally contracting for ballots, having telegraphed to home printers to bid on the same, is a matter of as insignificant importance as the additional charge for reading proof of ballots, which necessitated another trip to Pittsburg.

The several days devoted to "making ready for election" and "making ready for settlement" must have witnessed stirring scenes in the commissioners' office, since the matters pertaining to elections could have been as readily discharged by the clerk alone as with the assistance of three commissioners at $3.50 per day each, and it should be the clerk's duty to prepare for the annual settlement.

The charge on November 3d, "attending to election matters," will remind some six thousand voters that they also attended to election matters on that day, which was the day of the presidential election, but we presume none of them received $3.50 out of the county treasury for casting their ballots and performing their patriotic duty.

It should be added in Mr. Shober's favor that he found work on his farm and attending to his cider-mill more profitable than did his official associates, who received pay for more days than did he, but perhaps this was only a ruse to make the taxpayers believe that he was genuinely in favor of reform in the commissioners' office, and that his associates were guilty of transacting public business during his absence. His itemized account, however, speaks for itself.

S. U. SHOBER—Bill for Services as County Commissioner for 1896.

JANUARY.

6, 7 and 8, made ready for settlement; 9, examined sheriff's bill; 10, examined Prothonotary's bill; 11, examined Recorder's bill; 13 to 25, attended court; 27 and 28, examined and approved bills; 30, received certificates of nominations; 31, filed certificates of nominations.

FEBRUARY.

1, issued orders; 3, examined nomination papers; 4, examined nomination papers; 5, revised pinks; 6, revised pinks and contracted for ballots; 7, revised pinks; 8, made ready for election; 10, 12, 13 and 14, made ready for election; 15 and 17, delivered ballots; 18, revised pinks; 19, judges' return day; 20, 21 and 22, held appeals; 24, 25, 26 and 27, attended court; 28, approved bills; 29, approved bills, issued orders.

MARCH.

2, 3, 4 and 5, attended court; 6, approved bills; 11, approved bills and issued orders; 12, examined printers' bill; 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18, made ready for unseated land sale; 21, issued orders; 25, unseated land sale; 27, signed deed polls; 30, issued orders; 31, signed deed polls.

APRIL.

2, approved bills; 3, approved bills and issued orders; 4 and 6, approved bills and signed deed polls; 7, revised pinks; 8, revised pinks and issued orders; 9, settled E. H. Miller's duplicate; 10, considered Confluence bridge; 11, issued orders and delivered deed polls; 13, revised pinks; 14, 15, 16 and 17, revised pinks and attended adjourned court; 18, examined Sheriff's bill; 21, approved bills; 22, met Fayette county commissioners at Confluence and measured bridge; 28 and 30, made register ready for delivery.

MAY.

1 and 2, made register ready for delivery; 4, examined Fairhope bridge; 5, delivered registers; 6 and 7, prepared duplicates; 8, went to Uniontown to confer with commissioners; 9, examined Prothonotary's bill; 11 to 16, attended special court; 18, issued orders; 19, met Fayette county commissioners at Somerset to consider plans and specifications; 20, met Fayette county commissioners at Uniontown and adopted plans; 21, returned from Uniontown; 23, approved bills; 25 to 29, attended court; 30, approved bills.

JUNE.

1 to 5, attended court; 6, made ready for unseated land sale; 8, attended Treasurer's unseated land sale; 9, approved bills, met with agricultural committee; 10, sold Confluence bridge masonry; 11, contracted Confluence bridge superstructure; 13, approved bills; 15 and 16, made school registers ready for delivery; 18, examined Metzler bridge; 20, approved bills; 22, made school registers ready for delivery; 23, contracted for repairs on Metzler bridge; 27 and 29, delivered school registers.

JULY.

1, signed, acknowledged and delivered poll deeds; 2, examined Prothonotary's bill; 3, viewed bridge site in Addison township; 18, approved bills and issued orders; 21, signed poll deeds; 25, signed State report.

AUGUST.

1, 8 and 15, approved bills and issued orders; 24, ordered to receive bids for election blanks; 27, superintended Confluence bridge; 28, viewed bridge in Meyersdale (superstructure); 29, contracted for Meyersdale and Addison bridges; 31, issued orders.

SEPTEMBER.

2, assessors' return day; 5, viewed bridge in Ogle twp; 5, approved bills; 12, issued orders; 14, received bids for masonry for Meyersdale bridge; 17, approved bills; 18, located Meyersdale bridge; 19 and 24, approved bills; 25, issued orders; 26, viewed Confluence bridge masonry; 28 and 30, attended court.

OCTOBER.

1 and 3, attended court; 5, fixed Treasurer's commission; 6, issued orders; 7 and 8, located bridge in Ogle twp; 9, signed certificates of balances; 10 approved bills; 12, issued unseated and certificates; 13, received bids for ballots; 14, contracted for ballots; 15, measured Confluence bridge abutments; 16, prepared for election; 20, signed unseated land certificates; 21, made ready for election; 22, went to Pittsburg to read proof of ballots; 23, corrected ballots; 24 and 26, made ready for election; 27, superintended Meyersdale bridge; 28, 29 made ready for election; 30 and 31 made ready for election and delivered ballots.

NOVEMBER.

2, delivered ballots; 3, attended to election matters; 4, judges' return day; 5, approved bills; 6 and 7 superintended Meyersdale bridge; 9 approved bills and approved bills; 10, 11, and 12, attended adjourned court; 13, signed and delivered deed polls; 14, approved bills; 16, 17, 19 and 20, made assessments ready for delivery; 21, delivered assessments; 23 and 27, attended court; 28, superintended Meyersdale bridge and delivered assessments; 30, attended court.

DECEMBER.

1, 2 and 3, attended court; 4, examined Reitz's bridge in Shade twp; 5, approved bills; 7, made ready for settlement; 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 made ready for settlement; 15 to 26, attended court; 28 to 31, made ready for settlement.

JANUARY, 1897.

1 and 2, made ready for settlement.

Total number of days, 227, at $3.50, $794.50.

S. U. SHOBER—Bill of Traveling Expenses and Money Paid Out for the Year 1896.

Feb 15,	delivering ballots to Berlin	$ 25
	telephone to Garrett	25
	dinner and supper	50
	delivering ballots to Greenville, Larimer and Southampton	2 25
	R. R. fare to Glencoe and return	1 90
Feb 17,	R. R. fare to Meyersdale, return delivering ballots to Meyersdale	1 15
	Elk Lick and Salisbury	1 50
	livery hire, dinner and supper	2 00
Feb 19,	delivering ballots to N'hampton	50
Apr 22,	R. R. fare to Confluence, dinner	1 85
May 4,	R. R. fare to Fairhope, dinner	2 40
May 5,	Paid for delivering registers	2 25
May 8,	R. R. fare to Uniontown dinner and supper	4 35
May 20-21,	R. R. fare to Uniontown and hotel expenses	6 26
May 25,	delivering duplicates	50
Jun 10,	R. R. fare to Confluence, dinner	1 70
Jun 19,	dinner, supper, horse feed	1 00
Jun 27,	postage	10
July 3,	R. R. fare to Confluence, livery hire and dinner	2 35
Aug 25,	R. R. fare to Confluence, dinner and supper	2 75
Aug 28,	R. R. fare to Meyersdale, dinner	1 40
Sept 3,	R. R. fare to Johnstown, lodging and dinner	3 00
Sept 18,	R. R. fare to Meyersdale, dinner	1 40
Sept 26,	R. R. fare to Confluence, dinner and supper	2 05
Oct 7,	R. R. fare to Paint Creek, lodging and liv