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MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1919

When the fight begins within himself a man's worth something.—ROBERT BROWNING.

DR. SCHAEFFER

WITH the death of Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, there passes one of the foremost educators of the United States, whose tenure of the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in this State was a record. Dr. Schaeffer was noted as editor and author, speaker and publicist as well as an educator. He represented the connecting link between the formative days of the school system and the changed conditions resulting from the world war and governmental experiments in industry and utilities.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES

THE other day a railroad man said: "The trainmen are pretty sore because Senator Penrose and Senator Knox helped prevent Congress from passing the railroad appropriation bill which the President wanted put through."

ECONOMIES HIGHER UP

THERE is much talk of retrenchment in railroad circles these days and railroad forces have been reduced to a point that the outsider looks like serious interference with the effective and efficient operation of the roads. But we haven't noted that any of the high priced regional directors and others who came into office with the taking over of the railroads have been dropped from the payrolls.

WEATHER QUESTIONS

TWO questions we would propound for the consideration of weather-wise souls who may possess these lines: "First, was last week's snow the 'onion snow'?" Second, was yesterday's disturbance the semi-annual equinoctial storm?"

BUSINESS OR BUST

MILES of editorials and special articles have been written about the possibilities of Pennsylvania in regard to agriculture and the grand opportunities have been dimmed into the ears of thousands and thousands from platform and pulpit, train steps and box beside the grocery store.

the heavy fur on the muskrat, or the goosebone theory of detecting a hard winter. He'd just as soon acknowledge the existence of Santa Claus or put his faith in a pow-wow doctor. That's how scientific he is.

Mind, we don't say he isn't right. Most likely he is. But tradition dies hard and the weather has a most reverse and dismaying habit of producing a most vicious storm round about the date when the days and nights are equal, and to-morrow's that day. Ergo, yesterday's disturbance in popular belief is the "equinoctial storm."

The "onion snow" is an equally variable event. The last snow is always the "onion snow." Therefore, it may be the middle of May before we will know positively that last Friday's visitation was the regular honest-injun "onion snow" of the year or only a miserable make-believe. Be that as it may, it certainly did make a lot of darn fool conversation.

DOING A GOOD WORK

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS STINE AND CUMBLER are doing an excellent work in the equalization of property assessments throughout the county, and they should be encouraged to continue what they have so well begun.

Partisan politics has no place in the fixing of land valuations, and those who are attempting to make a campaign issue of the assessments now being levied are placing party advantage above public welfare, and they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

The criticism of the majority members of the Board of Commissioners is unjust. The accusations have been proved false. They were based solely on the minority member's desire to be re-elected, backed by an unscrupulous political machine and its purveyors of misinformation.

Messrs. Stine and Cumber have added more than a hundred million dollars' worth of assessable property to the books of the county. This will produce enough revenues to give us the good roads, the bridges and the new Courthouse we need, without costing the individual taxpayer one penny. Not only that, but they have raised assessments where they were too low and lowered them where they were too high. They have been as fair as it is possible to be in the difficult business of fixing valuations that are varying almost constantly, and the taxpayers will be enriched by hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result. They are going quietly along with their work, regardless of the fact that Commissioner Wells, playing his pitifully petty game for re-election, is obstructing where he should be helping. They need not be disturbed. The voters know the facts and appreciate what they are doing.

France's Heroic Dead

Paris, according to a dispatch from that city, is divided in a matter of sentiment touching the memory of France's heroic dead. The battlefields, to be "Plains of Silence," but others prefer that "the fields be planted with trees to grow into monuments to the dead."

New Tank Insignia

The Tank Corps shoulder badge is in the form of a triangle composed of three equal sections of red, blue and yellow, respectively. The reason assigned for its adoption was that the corps combined the functions of artillery, infantry and cavalry.

Intercommunity Planning

Those familiar with the communal difficulties that develop during the war will be disposed to support any proper measure in the Legislature that will allow Philadelphia, Chester and Bristol to join in a scheme extending the jurisdiction of the local Department of Public Works within a specific zone outside of Philadelphia county.

A Cause For Grievance

The late Nat Goodwin's many marriages became a joke even in the much-married theatrical profession. At the Lambs' Club Willard Collier one day asked Goodwin anxiously: "Have I offended you, Nat?" "Why, no," replied the astounded Goodwin. "What do you mean?" "Well," responded Collier, with an injured air, "you never invite me to any of your view-points."

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Politics in Pennsylvania

Early action is expected on the administration bill providing for a commission to make a study of revision of the Constitution of Pennsylvania by the Senate committee in charge and it is possible that the measure may be reported out this week.

Prompt action is also expected on the other administration measures, especially those making changes in the business methods of the State government.

Appointment of Charles H. Kline and Stephen Stone to the Allegheny county bench is commended by the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times editorially.

Governor Sproull's State art commission plan is meeting with general editorial support in the State.

Commissioner Roy Hatfield and Register of Wills R. C. Miller will be candidates again in Montgomery.

Although the bill for an additional judge in Lehigh is not yet signed, the politicians are figuring on candidates among them.

The Philadelphia Bulletin in Penn's column says regarding the proposed abolition of the third class of traffic in the next month.

The general impression about legislative halls is that the nonpartisan class governing judicial and second class class elections will be repealed within the next month.

Iron and steel plants at Coatesville, Steelton and Johnstown are not running to full capacity.

At Johnstown there alighted an attractive young mother with a bright little five year old daughter.

At the Pittsburgh district is smoky by day. One can scarcely imagine it differently in recent years, but the great steel plants are no longer working at capacity by any means.

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