

EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF STATE'S SNAKES

In about three weeks State Economic Zoologist Surface will issue a bulletin on the snakes of Pennsylvania in which he will describe the twenty-four species of serpents native in Pennsylvania and give what he considers to be the greatest amount of information about the food of serpents ever published. "In fact," said he "I think the bulletin will contain more on this point than is contained in all of the literature on the subject."

Prof. Surface has been collecting data, live and written, on this subject for months. He has received snakes, wriggling and dead, from every county in the State, having practically everyone of the species known in Pennsylvania in his collection on the fifth floor of the North wing of the capitol. Only yesterday he received a four and a half foot live copper head snake which was photographed by himself and his assistants in a dozen different poses and acts. He also received from Columbia county a specimen of the green grass snake, commonly supposed to be venomous, but which Prof. Surface says is not so.

VALUABLE DATA FOR FARMERS

This bulletin will be exceedingly valuable to farmers for it will furnish all kinds of information about serpents, their habits, appearance, characteristics and above all their manner of propagation and how they feed. The bulletin will give photographs taken of rattlesnakes right in the capitol, the subject being a very live one which was received some time ago. Practically every bit of useful knowledge about this snake will be sifted out of the voluminous correspondence of Prof. Surface with farmers on this subject.

The same will be done with other varieties and the lore about the copperhead will be instructive. It will be illustrated by a photograph showing the young copperhead wrapped in its natal membranes side by side with another revealing the snake very much alive. This will demonstrate that the copperhead does not lay eggs, but there will be photographs of other serpents, some snatched in front of the incubator in which Prof. Surface has been hatching the reptiles to further his studies. In addition data about the contents of the stomachs of some hundreds of snakes will be given to show on what the various species feed.

MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

Prof. Surface says that he intends to make this a preliminary bulletin, in advance of a most exhaustive study of the snake, one which will be unique in America. The bulletin will be issued only to persons who have contributed to the study of snakes sent to the office of the division for the furtherance of its investigations, these contributions, being by the way, the snakes which Prof. Surface intends to send to every county in Pennsylvania for use in its schools. This is his plan to disseminate information to the young about a reptile which he declares is less known and about which there is more ignorance and superstition than any other.

There are still needed many snakes for this collection. It is planned to send a complete set of the common snakes to every one of the sixty-seven counties and dozens more are required.

New Parapet at Court House

The painters are now applying the third and last coat of paint on the north side of the court house and thus some idea is afforded of what the building will look like when it is completed. Many persons passed to admire the effect yesterday.

The court house originally was pleasing enough architecturally. The handsome concrete steps and broad pavement, added last year, set it off very nicely and all that it needs now is the new parapet being so artistically applied to round out the decorations and to give our county as fine a court house as it could wish to possess. The changing of the lavatory, removing the entire system into the cellar, is now about completed. This improvement adds much to the general convenience and along with the lighting device, etc., recently installed, makes the building modern and up-to-date in all its appointments.

SOUNDS GOOD

Abundant crops and an oversold steel industry engender sentiments of confidence that make the outlook bright for a continuance of present prosperous business conditions. Each week brings a new high-water mark in some department, and the net result is uniformly better than for the corresponding week in any previous year. "Dun's Review."

GOOD IDEA

The commissioners of Washington county are seriously considering the propriety of imitating the example set by Westmoreland county in calling a convention of the assessors. It is believed that a general meeting of the assessors could compare notes would redound to the advantage of the county when it comes to making the next assessment.

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ENGINEERS MAKING FINAL SURVEY

A corps of engineers representing the State highway department started work on North Mill street yesterday, making the final survey, on which will be based the plans and specifications for the paving and the macadam that the borough has decided to put down with State aid.

Nearly all formality has now been completed with. The ordinance was adopted on its final reading Friday night and a copy was sent to the State highway department. On the strength of this the engineers were sent here yesterday to make the final survey so that proposals for putting down the pavement and macadam may be invited.

The promptitude of the State highway department in sending the engineers is very gratifying and indicates that in a very short time all things will be ready for the beginning of work. Considering the nature of the work to be done ample time exists for completing the job long before cold weather sets in. Although concrete will not be used under the brick, yet the fact should not be lost sight of that more or less excavating will be required to get the proper grade.

The putting down of the curbing itself will involve no little work, while the widening and relaying of the pavements will give the property owners plenty to do while the contractors are busy on the street.

The Danville Milling company is preparing to enter upon a sidewalk improvement at the grist mill which is quite in keeping with what is planned by the borough. The street paving some thirty-two feet in width will extend up as far as the northern end of the mill beyond which point up to the borough line macadam will take the place of brick.

The members of the milling company yesterday stated that they intend to extend the street paving over all the wide space about the mill including the sidewalk. Not only will the vitrified brick be laid up to the very wall of the mill on the west side, but the pavement will be extended up Chambers street over one half its width as far as the upper side of the mill. While this part of the improvement will be done at the milling company's expense, they stated yesterday, they will endeavor by private arrangement to have the work included in the general contract. The extension of the pavement as proposed by the Milling company will add much to the value of its property and help the appearance of the general improvement.

BUGS

State Zoologist Surface gives far more than a mere surface attention to the duties of his interesting office. He has just issued a special bulletin on the bug family of Pennsylvania which is meant to inform the people of the commonwealth. We learn from this document that there are twenty-four families of bugs in the State, although some might think there are more. Among them are the giant and creeping water bugs, the water boatman, back swimmers, water scorpions, toad-shaped bugs, shore bugs, broad-shouldered water-striders, marsh treaders, thread-legged bugs, assassin bugs, damsel bugs, ambush bugs, flat bugs, lace bugs, flower bugs, leaf bugs, lace bugs, cich bugs, still bugs, squash bugs, stink bugs, barrow bugs, negro bugs and shield-back bugs, with some others more or less well known to the housekeeper.

Miss Aten Buys Store

Miss Emma Aten has purchased the dry goods store of the late William L. Seidel from the Seidel estate, the transfer being made yesterday. Miss Aten will run the store under the name of E. D. Aten & Company. Miss Aten has been employed in this store for 16 years and for a number of years she has been practically in charge of the establishment. She will no doubt make a success of the enterprise.

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BALANCE OF FIFTY-FOUR DOLLARS

The tri-county farmers' picnic, held in DeWitt's park Thursday, proved a fine success financially as well as in all other respects, the treasurer's statement showing a cash balance on hand of \$54.79.

The treasurer of the tri-county picnic association is Jacob M. Shultz, of Cooper township. His statement of receipts and expenditures shows that there was a balance of \$12.00 brought over from 1905, and that the gate receipts of the picnic this year amounted to \$74.55, making total receipts of \$86.55. Altogether, for ground rent, music, prizes, etc., the sum of \$31.85 was paid out, which leaves a balance in the hands of the treasurer of \$54.79.

J. R. Sharpless, T. H. Benfield, and J. C. Carr, who were appointed auditors, Saturday, to examine the above statement performed that duty, finding the treasurer's account and vouchers to be entirely correct.

Considering the small admission fee charged the surplus on hand is quite considerable. The \$54.79 will be devoted to entertainment and prizes for the next picnic, and thus a still greater measure of success is assured for next year. In all probability a band will be employed, while the surplus will justify the offering of very handsome prizes.

The third Wednesday of August is fixed as a permanent date for the tri-county picnic, the place for holding it alone remaining to be decided upon.

Boy Drowned at Sunbury

Richard Bright, the 8-year-old son of Trainmaster B. F. Bright, of Fifth street, Sunbury, was drowned in the river about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Richard with some companions, all boys about the same age, went bathing at the sixth pier of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad bridge. Dick made the remark that it wasn't deep enough for him close to the pier that he was going out further, when he got into a deep hole. He screamed for help, when Grover Walker, who was near him, called to Edward Jones to get a rope from the bridge repairmen that Dick was drowning, but it was too late. He sank and did not come up to the surface again.

The boys gave the alarm and word was sent to Sunbury and Dr. Shindle was immediately summoned to come to the river. The doctor secured a row boat and went to the scene of the drowning. Lester Snyder, a young man about thirteen years of age, who was at the pier, dove into the water and recovered his body at the first attempt. By this time Dr. Shindle was at the pier and made heroic efforts to revive him but to no avail, the last spark of life had fled.

By this time the boy's father arrived and instructed the men to bring his body to the shore, and it was taken to the undertaking parlors of W. F. Shipman.

R. Frank Bright, Jr., the father of the unfortunate lad is a former resident of Danville, having at one time, a number of years ago, been station agent for the Pennsylvania railroad at North Danville.

TONES OF SADNESS

There is a sad tone in the announcement from Minneapolis, where the fortieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held last week, that this encampment may be the last. This sentiment is the result of the age and the physical infirmities of the men who make up the now fast thinning ranks of the honored organization. With more graves to decorate on each recurring Memorial day, and fewer men in each recurring encampment and campfire, the way of the veterans' going is silently but eloquently proclaimed. The long journey necessary to reach encampment cities and the fatigue incident to public parades and celebrations make for the veterans a task that not many of them can much longer endure, hence the belief that national encampments will soon be things of history only. And that which is true of encampments is also true, only with more startling observation, of regimental and company reunions—the men who for forty one years that have intervened since the close of the civil war have made these gatherings the inspiring, history-teaching functions that have been are fast answering to that roll from the bivouac of which no soldier returns.

Roads completed August 10 amount to 457,363 feet, and cost \$750,464.77. This is equal to 86.62 miles and the average cost per mile was \$8,663.57.

GOOD IDEA

The commissioners of Washington county are seriously considering the propriety of imitating the example set by Westmoreland county in calling a convention of the assessors. It is believed that a general meeting of the assessors could compare notes would redound to the advantage of the county when it comes to making the next assessment.

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SOME PARTIES CANNOT NOMINATE

HARRISBURG, Aug. 23.—"A political party in order to be entitled to file certificates of nomination must have polled at least 3 per cent. of the largest entire vote for any office cast at the election next preceding in the district for which the nomination is sought. This means the total vote cast for all candidates for the office."

George D. Thorn, chief clerk of the State department, where all election paper for candidates for State offices must be filed, made this statement today for the purpose of avoiding further confusion in the filing of such papers for the coming election.

Candidates of candidates of the Lincoln party, the Socialist and the Prohibition party have been returned almost every day for several weeks because these parties did not poll the necessary votes at the last election in the districts from which the papers were filed to entitle them to nominate by certificate.

Many candidates did not understand why their papers have been returned, and for that reason Mr. Thorn explained the ballot law today.

HOW VOTE IS RECORDED

"If the total vote," said Mr. Thorn, "cast for the office of State treasurer last year in Dauphin county was 30,000, and the Lincoln party had polled 900 votes at that election, then that party would be entitled to file certificates for county nominations. If, however, those 400 votes were all polled in the city of Harrisburg, then the representative district outside of the city would be entitled to file certificates. Each county stands upon its own bottom, whether it is a county or a congressional, senatorial or representative district.

"Sufficient votes may have been cast in one of the counties of a congressional district to make 3 per cent. of the largest entire vote for any office in the district, and that would entitle the party casting the 3 per cent. to file certificates of nomination. But if the bulk of the 3 per cent. vote was cast in one county it might be that in the other counties of the district the party would be required to nominate by nomination papers.

"Take as an example," Mr. Thorn went on, "the Berks-Lehigh congressional district. More than 2 per cent. of the total vote of the two counties was cast by the Socialist party, and its candidate for congress can be nominated by certificate.

DISTRICTS DEFINED

"An examination of the returns reveals the fact that nearly all of the Socialist votes were cast in the city of Reading. Consequently all nominations of the Socialist party for the county of Lehigh, as well as all of the separate representative districts of that county, must be made by nomination papers, as is also the case with political districts of Berks outside of the city of Reading.

"If candidates bear in mind that a representative district is as distinct from the other districts in the county as one county is distinct from another, there would then be no cause for misunderstanding as to the lawful method of filing nominations."

County Debt in Northumberland

Figures showing the work of the State Highway Department for 1906, either completed or under way, are a significant commentary on the vast job the State has undertaken.

Appropriation for road purposes, made by the Legislature of 1903, to be expended under the direction of the State Highway Department, is \$6,500,000 distributed throughout a period of six years, as follows: 1903, \$2,000,000; 1904-5, \$500,000; 1905-6, \$1,250,000; 1906-7, \$1,250,000; 1907-8, \$1,500,000; 1908-9, \$1,500,000.

Of the foregoing amount ten per cent is set apart by law for maintenance of the improved roads, including roads built by the department and roads built independently of the department. Expenditures under this head have been as follows: 1904, \$49,191.72; 1905, \$50,008.28; total, \$100,000.

The maintenance payments for the current year have not yet been sent out. The amount to be distributed this year is \$125,000. The department is now engaged in examining the roads for which maintenance aid has been asked.

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PROHIBITIONISTS MAKE NOMINATION

The Montour county Prohibition convention was held at the court house, Saturday at 11 o'clock. County Chairman Charles C. Fisher took the chair and Secretary J. M. Kalso read the minutes of May 1st, which were approved.

Rev. Harry Minsker was appointed secretary. The nomination of a candidate for State legislature was left open. The following nominations were made:

For sheriff, Charles Uttermiller, of Mahoning township; for register and recorder, A. J. Still, of Danville; for jury commissioner, Richard W. Egger, of Danville; Charles A. Wagner was endorsed for associate judge; Thomas C. Curry and Richard W. Egger were appointed congressional, senatorial and judicial conferees and were instructed in favor of the present judge, C. C. Evans.

The executive committee was empowered to fill all vacancies. The county secretary was directed to place the sum of ten dollars contributed to the State committee, in the treasurer's hands and direct him to remit the same to the State treasurer.

Funeral of Mrs. Reinhardt

Mrs. John Reinhardt, whose death occurred Thursday night, was consigned to the grave in Odd Fellows' cemetery Saturday afternoon. The funeral was very largely attended.

The services were conducted by Rev. George W. Fritsch, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, of which the deceased was nearly a life-long member. The pall bearers were: Fred Held, Fred Wendell, John Kilgus, Jacob Von Blohn, Paul Knochi and William Doutsch.

The funeral proceeded to the Odd Fellows' cemetery by trolley car. Among those who attended the observance were Mr. and Mrs. George Gaugel of Egg Harbor, N. J.

State's Roads Gigantic Task

The tax payer of Northumberland county is confronted with a condition that may prove unbearable, and the county itself is in danger of becoming an insolvent institution.

During the past five years the taxes in this county have advanced 33 per cent., and there is positive assurance that another advance of at least 60 per cent must be made within the next year, as the expenses of the boroughs and townships are continually on the increase, and the county expenses are soaring to the skies.

The bonded indebtedness of the county is \$414,200.00; the temporary loans are \$70,000.00; the Lewisburg bridge will cost the county \$124,000.00 plus the engineer's commission of \$3,100.00; the deficit this year occasioned by ordinary county expenses will be about \$75,000.00.

Added up, Northumberland county's debt on January 1st, 1907, will be \$688,200.00. The balance indebtedness of \$414,200.00 was created before the year 1905. The balance of the \$688,200.00 is all new debt.

The property valuation of the county at the present time is between \$31,000,000 and \$32,000,000.00 on which a tax rate of three mills is laid for county purposes, and from which the bulk of the county revenues are realized.

In 1905 the total county revenue from all sources was \$134,856.02, and the total expenses were \$213,372.36. The county commissioners were compelled to spend \$78,516.34 more than they received.

The course the expenses are taking indicates that the deficit for this year will be as great, if not greater, than last year. Valuations and mill rate are the same as last year, hence there will be no increase in the revenues.

It is the intention of the county commissioners to make the tax rate five mills for the coming year, or an increase of two mills, to meet the growing cost of running the county.

New Board of Directors

An election was held in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A. last night for the purpose of electing a board of directors.

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THE UPRIGHTS WILL BE TAKEN DOWN

The United Telephone and Telegraph company will remove the wooden uprights placed on top of the iron work of the river bridge and will devise some other plan for carrying the wires overhead. As explained in a previous issue the intention was to attach cross arms to the upright posts erected sufficient to carry thirty wires. There was some objection to this method and before the work had progressed very far the foreman in charge agreed to suspend work until a joint meeting of the two boards of county commissioners could be held to take action on the matter.

The joint meeting took place in Sunbury on Friday. A full board of Montour county commissioners—Messrs. Lehigh, Cook and Seehar—accompanied by Clerk Horace C. Blue and County Solicitor E. S. Gearhart, was present along with Messrs. Frank Erdman, P. J. Glennan, Casper A. Tharp and Clerk J. O. Shearer of the Northumberland county board.

After a short discussion the commissioners were unanimously of the opinion that to carry the system of wires above the iron work as proposed would be to spoil the appearance of the bridge very much and it was agreed to remove the upright posts already in position and to devise some other means for carrying the wires across on a level with the top of the bridge.

Pursuant to this action H. N. Daniels, manager of the United Telephone and Telegraph company, came up from Sunbury Saturday afternoon and looked over the ground. He states that the company will endeavor to conform with the wishes of the county commissioners, but just what plan will be adopted for carrying the wires overhead is not known.

Not After Nomination

The recent mention of the name John M. Garman, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, as a candidate for the judgeship of the Columbia-Montour district by certain out-of-the-district newspapers who knew nothing about the local political situation and which has occasioned more or less comment through out the State, is set at rest by a statement from Mr. Garman who has just returned to Wilkes-Barre after enjoying an extended vacation, says the Columbia-Montour Daily. Concerning the matter Mr. Garman had the following to say:

"I am not considering the judgeship at all. I have heard nothing whatever about it except what I saw in the Wilkes-Barre newspapers to which I am deeply thankful for their kindly personal commendation, but my personal desire is to see one of the two candidates, Mr. Harman or Mr. Herrig, regularly nominated.

"They are both my personal friends and both are thoroughly competent. They have made their campaign for the nomination and I sincerely hope that they will be able to reach an agreement."

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Galt*

Tax Receiver Ousted

W. H. Berry, who has held the position of receiver of taxes in Sunbury for several years, has been dismissed from office by Judge C. R. Savidge. On the duplicates of the last two years there was about \$40,000 due the borough. Berry failed to collect within \$16,000 of that amount. His bondsmen were a number of prominent residents.

The bondsmen started an investigation, putting two experts to work on the books, with the result that the shortage was discovered. The bondsmen accordingly refused to go on Berry's bond for this year, nor was he able to get others.

It is not known what action the bondsmen will take against Berry, but it is hardly likely that any proceedings will be instituted, as the ex-collector of taxes is not worth anything like the amount involved in the shortage.

The news occasioned great surprise to Berry's friends, who, while aware that the collections were not coming in, had no idea of the big amount involved in the deficiency. Berry's successor in office is S. P. Savidge.

WILL SCRAMBLE THEN

The Williamsport Evening News believes that "when once the farmers throughout the country come to appreciate the benefit of good roads in raising the value of their properties and lessening the wear and tear on their horses and wagons, to say nothing of giving them an easy outlet to market at all seasons of the year, there will be a much livelier scramble for slices of that State appropriation than at present." Perhaps so. There surely ought to be anyhow.

Boys In Camp

The following boys from Danville are enjoying life under canvas at Camp Hooligan near Cameron: Roy Winner, Roy Fox, Carl Rockafeller, James Redding, Charles Bowers, Bryon and Harry Stickle and Harris Renninger.

Camping at Ferndale

The following party from Millville is enjoying life under canvas at Camp Ferndale above Muncy: Misses Lillian Gortner, Lena and Berell Lester, Margaret Heller, Bernice Eves, Irene Keler, Jessie Keler, Edith Eves, Mary Sands, Mary Masters, Myra Eves, Messrs. Herbert Henrie, Arthur Henrie, Jay Grimes, Carl Grimes, Myron Eves, Harold Keler and Bruce Dillinger, all of Millville; Miss Mary Matthews, of Chester; Miss Mary McGee, of Milton; Miss Emily Voris, of Pottsgrove; Miss Blanch and Raymond Potts, of Frosty Valley; Miss Mary and Frank Fry, of this city.

Large Sunflower

Alex McCaffrey, First street, has a sunflower growing on his premises which is a curiosity, on account of its remarkable size. The stalk measures fifteen feet in height and the sunflower which is at the extreme top, measures thirteen inches in diameter. The leaves are all of mammoth size, some being 25 inches long and 16 inches wide.

EISENHOWER GOES TO STATE SHOOT

As predicted in these columns the expert marksmen who represented Company F, 12th Regiment N. G. P., in the regimental rifle match at Sunbury last week well sustained past records. On the strength of the showing made, one of the men, Alexander Eisenhauer, will represent the Twelfth regiment at the State shoot, which will be held at Mt. Gretna this week.

The result of the regimental match at Sunbury as made known Saturday indicates that the shoot was most successful, the average being the highest ever attained in the regiment.

The team from Company F, composed of Willets K. Beagle of Bloomsburg; Alexander Eisenhauer and Frank Barwick, of Catawissa, did the best team work, winning the company H trophy consisting of a handsome sterling silver water pitcher, which trophy is now in the custody of Captain J. Beaver Gearhart, where it must remain until won by a team from another company.

Eisenhauer proved to be the best shot on the team, winning the Gazette and Bulletin badge with a total of 61 points, at 200 and 500 yards; the Willson badge with a total of 89 at 200, 500 and 600 yards; also the DuFour memorial badge on enlisted men only at 200, 500 and 600 yards. The William P. Clarke badge to be won by the person making the best five shot score of 300 and 500 yards during the matches, the last five shots at each range to count, was also won by Eisenhauer at 46 points. Eisenhauer also won a solid gold watch for highest averages during the matches.

Eisenhauer was tied for first place on the other badges with Captain Schuyler L. R. P., 12th regiment, but owing to the fact that Captain Schuyler made more points at 600 yards it was decided that he was the winner, although at the three ranges the score of each was 89. Eisenhauer's average was 4.04 which is especially high.

The Lieutenant Fred A. Godehars badge to be won by the newcomer who makes the highest average was won by Frank Barwick, who lost the rapid fire match by one point and had five seconds to spare.

The three men on the team between whom seven matches out of ten.

A JUDGE'S AUTHORITY

Judge Reed, of Jefferson county has just handed down a decision refusing to comply with the petition of certain citizens of that county asking him to make a rule requiring the hotels to close their bars on Memorial day and certain other holidays. He declares that it is the business of the court to expound and enforce the laws, not to make them, and since the act of assembly regulating the liquor traffic specifically names the days on which bars shall be closed, it would be judicial usurpation of legislative authority to add to these days. Yet Judge Reed ought to know that a judge does not exceed his authority when he requests those to whom license is granted to obey certain suggestions of the court, and the request of the court, with the emphatic understanding that it was nothing more than a request, would have great weight with the majority of landlords.

Preached at Ball Park